UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
39th meeting
held on
Friday, 30 November 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (*continued*)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.10 concerning agenda item 61

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.22/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 53

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.50/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 56

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.39 concerning agenda item 54

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49 concerning agenda item 56

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.53/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 60

Programme budget implications of draft decision A/C.2/45/L.45 concerning agenda item 12

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/45/L.20 and A/45/L.21 and Corr.1 concerning agenda item 152

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/45/SR.39
6 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

/...

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (*continued*)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would consider seven statements of programme budget implications of draft resolutions and one statement of programme budget implications of a draft decision.

2. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that it had been the practice of the Committee, before the adoption of General Assembly resolution 41/213 and the application of its budget provisions, to vote on the programme budget implications of resolutions adopted by the other Main Committees. In accordance with the spirit of renewal and reform, the Twelve would not request votes on the statements currently under consideration. They nevertheless believed that the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 concerning the use and operation of the contingency fund, including questions such as the redeployment of resources, modifications of existing activities and the deferment of additional activities, should be scrupulously observed. They reiterated their support for the Secretary-General's call, in document A/45/226, for an unprecedented degree of restraint and reserved the right to examine all possibilities for redeployment and deferment in the context of consideration of the consolidated statement to be submitted towards the end of the current session.

3. Mr. HILL (United States of America) said that his delegation associated itself with the views expressed by the representative of Italy on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.10 concerning agenda item 61 (A/C.5/45/48)

4. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, under the terms of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.10, the General Assembly would renew the mandate of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean and request it to perform the activities summarized in paragraph 2 of document A/C.5/45/48. The Secretary-General indicated that the adoption of the draft resolution would give rise to conference-servicing costs in 1991, as indicated in paragraph 9, but that no additional appropriations would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

5. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, based on the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/48 and in the light of the comments of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.10, no additional appropriations would be required under sections 2A or 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

6. *It was so decided*.

/...

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.22/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 53 (A/C.5/45/46)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.50/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 56 (A/C.5/45/47)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.39 concerning agenda item 54 (A/C.5/45/49)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49 concerning agenda item 56 (A/C.5/45/50)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.53/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 60 (A/C.5/45/51)

7. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the combined additional non-conference-servicing requirements arising from the implementation of the five draft resolutions under consideration amounted to $464,700 for 1991. The combined conference-servicing costs which would arise in 1991 in respect of four of the five draft resolutions amounted to $330,500. In that connection, the Secretary-General estimated that no additional resources would be required for conference servicing under section 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

8. The Advisory Committee noted that the implementation of two of the draft resolutions (A/C.1/45/L.22/Rev.1 and A/C.1/45/L.50/Rev.1) would entail combined expenditures of $273,000 in 1992 for non-conference-servicing activities. A further requirement of $97,400 would arise in 1993 in respect of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.22/Rev.1. Conference-servicing requirements in 1992-1993 would amount to $723,500. The Secretary-General stated that all additional requirements for 1992-1993 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for that biennium.

9. The Advisory Committee noted that, under three of the draft resolutions (A/C.1/45/L.22/Rev.1, A/C.1/45/L.50/Rev.1 and A/C.1/45/L.49), the Secretary-General was requested, with the assistance of experts, to carry out specific studies, as identified in documents A/C.5/45/46, A/C.5/45/47 and A/C.5/45/50. In that connection, the Secretary-General recalled the decision whereby activities related to the preparation of disarmament studies mandated by the General Assembly should be treated as perennial expenditures. To that end, a total amount of $554,200 had been appropriated by the General Assembly for consultants' services and *ad hoc* expert groups in connection with disarmament studies in 1990-1991. A balance of $89,400 remained as of 31 October 1990, but that amount would be required in its entirety for the completion of a study already mandated by the General Assembly. In response to inquiries as to why the bulk of the appropriation for 1990-1991 had been expended in 1990, the Advisory Committee had been informed that most of the related programme of work for the current biennium would be completed in 1990. The Secretary-General therefore stated that the additional requirements for the preparation of such studies during 1991, which together amounted to $379,500, could not be absorbed under section 2B of the programme budget.

/...

READEX FICHE

(Mr. Mselle)

10. Under draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.39, the Secretary-General was requested to assist the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in convening, at Addis Ababa during 1991, a meeting of experts to examine the modalities and elements for the preparation and implementation of a convention or treaty on the denuclearization of Africa. The related conference-servicing costs would be met by OAU. The financial implications of the draft resolution for the United Nations, which would amount to $32,600 in 1991, covered the travel and subsistence of eight experts and of one staff member from the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The travel and subsistence of the staff member, estimated at $3,800, would be absorbed under section 2B of the programme budget.

11. Under draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.53/Rev.1, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) was requested, with the assistance of independent experts, to prepare a research report on the economic aspects of disarmament, on the understanding that the costs would be shared between the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions. In view of the task facing the Director of UNIDIR in obtaining voluntary contributions in the short term, the Secretary-General proposed that the 1991 substantive costs ($52,600) should be borne by the regular budget, but that all substantive costs in 1992, estimated at $48,800, should be met through voluntary contributions. The amount for 1991 covered the travel and subsistence of eight experts for one 3-day session, a fee of $500 for each independent expert, three work-months of consultancy services, with related travel and subsistence, and one work-month of temporary assistance. According to the Secretary-General, those requirements could not be absorbed under section 2B of the programme budget.

12. In considering the Secretary-General's statements, the Advisory Committee had noted that the studies requested were very costly and felt that the time had come to reconsider the arrangements under which such studies were conducted, including, *inter alia*, the number of experts convened and the length of sessions. Furthermore, since it had been decided that activities relating to disarmament studies should be treated as perennial and therefore included in the programme budget, the Advisory Committee questioned the need to begin the studies called for in the draft resolutions under consideration during the current biennium. Such activities could, instead, form part of the programme of work for the next programme budget. The Advisory Committee also trusted that the Secretary-General would, wherever possible, co-ordinate with UNIDIR in completing such studies and, with regard to the report requested under draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.53/Rev.1, that UNIDIR would take into account past work on the economic aspects of disarmament.

13. Bearing in mind the foregoing observations, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolutions currently under consideration, additional expenditures of $460,900 would be required under section 2B of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. Additional expenditures of $6,800 would also be required under section 31, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1. Those additional requirements would be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines for the operation and use of the contingency fund. Accordingly, such additional

(Mr. Mselle)

appropriations as might be requested by the Secretary-General would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session, in accordance with section C of the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/211.

14. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, based on the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/46 and on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.22/Rev.1, first, it was estimated that an additional appropriation of $64,400 would be required under section 2B of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and that an additional amount of $1,400 would be required under section 31, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, while the additional requirements of $264,300 estimated for 1992 and 1993 ($166,900 for 1992 and $97,400 for 1993) would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993; and, second, that the requirement of $64,400 would constitute an additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget for 1990-1991 and, should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the activities described in paragraphs 4 to 8 of document A/C.5/45/46 would have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund set forth in General Assembly resolution 42/211.

15. It was so decided.

16. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, based on the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/47 and on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.50/Rev.1, first, it was estimated that an additional appropriation of $170,700 would be required under section 2B of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and that an additional amount of $2,400 would be required under section 31, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, while the additional requirements of $106,100 estimated for 1992 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993; and, second, that the requirement of $170,700 would constitute an additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget for 1990-1991 and, should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the activities described in paragraphs 4 to 7 of document A/C.5/45/47 would have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund set forth in General Assembly resolution 42/211.

17. It was so decided.

/...

18. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, based on the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/49 and on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.39, first, it was estimated that an additional appropriation of $28,800 would be required under section 2B of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991; and, second, that the requirement of $28,800 would constitute an additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget for 1990-1991 and, should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the activities described in paragraph 4 of document A/C.5/45/49 would have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund set forth in General Assembly resolution 42/211.

19. It was so decided.

20. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) noted that under paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.39, section A, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance that OAU might seek regarding the convening, at Addis Ababa during 1991, of a meeting of experts to examine the modalities and elements for the preparation and implementation of a convention or treaty on the denuclearization of Africa. While his delegation would agree to the possible provision of assistance by the Secretary-General to OAU, its position that the cost of the preparation and implementation of treaties should normally be borne by the countries participating in those treaties remained unchanged.

21. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, based on the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/50 and on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49, first, it was estimated that an additional appropriation of $144,400 would be required under section 2B of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, and that an additional amount of $1,600 would be required under section 31, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, and, second, that the requirement of $144,400 would constitute an additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget for 1990-1991 and should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the activities described in paragraphs 7 to 10 of document A/C.5/45/50 would have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund set forth in General Assembly resolution 42/211.

22. It was so decided.

23. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, based on the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/51 and on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.53/Rev.1, first, it was estimated that an additional appropriation of $52,600 would be required under section 2B of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 that an additional amount of $1,400 would be required under section 31, to be offset by a

/...

(The Chairman)

corresponding amount under income section 1, and that, as stated in paragraph 11 of document A/C.5/45/51, the additional requirement of $48,000 estimated for 1992 would be met through voluntary contributions; and, second, that the requirement of $52,600 would constitute an additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget for 1990-1991 and, should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the preparation of the report would have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund set forth in General Assembly resolution 42/211.

24. It was so decided.

25. Mr. MORDACQ (France) said that his delegation attached great importance to the research report to be prepared by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the economic aspects of disarmament and was therefore gratified by the approval by consensus of the related statement of programme budget implications. The effort made to finance the project largely from voluntary contributions was also gratifying since it meant that it would not weigh too heavily on the regular budget or on the contingency fund, to which his delegation also attached great importance as an essential part of the new budgetary procedure.

Programme budget implications of draft decision A/C.2/45/L.45 concerning agenda item 12 (A/C.5/45/54)

26. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, as indicated in the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, the inclusion of Liberia in the list of the least developed countries would lead to an estimated cost of $27,000 for travel for its representatives to the forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions of the General Assembly, but that no additional appropriations would be required.

27. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, based on the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/54 and in the light of the comments of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft decision A/C.2/45/L.45, it was assumed that Liberia would be entitled to reimbursement of the travel costs of its representatives to the forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions of the General Assembly and that an estimated additional cost of $27,000 would arise during the biennium 1990-1991, but that as a consequence of the merger of Democratic Yemen and Yemen, the number of Member States on the list of the least developed countries had been reduced, that the anticipated additional costs could thus be absorbed within existing resources, and that no additional appropriations would therefore be required under section 1 of the programme budget for biennium 1990-1991.

28. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/45/L.20 and A/45/L.21 and Corr.1 concerning agenda item 152 (A/C.5/45/56)

29. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, under the terms of draft resolution A/45/L.20, an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole would be established for the purpose of preparing the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, and that it would be authorized to hold a series of meetings. The estimated conference-servicing costs of those meetings amounted to $526,800, but no additional appropriations would be required under section 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

30. Draft resolution A/45/L.21 and Corr.1 would require the Secretary-General to undertake a number of activities, as indicated in paragraphs 10 to 13 of document A/C.5/45/56. Under paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would be requested, in consultation with the President of the African Development Bank, to include in his report to the forty-sixth session a study on the proposal of the feasibility of establishing an African commodity diversification fund in the African Development Bank. As explained in paragraph 21 of the statement of programme budget implications, additional consultancy requirements of $50,000 would have to be met in that connection. That amount would be an additional expenditure, to be considered by the General Assembly in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

31. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) asked the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to explain what the position would be if, at the end of the session, after the consolidated statement had been reviewed, it appeared that the reports called for in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the draft resolution would have to be postponed, despite the fact that, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly would be conducting its final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. He would like to know with whom the decision would rest, and what use the reports would be if they had to be postponed beyond the forty-sixth session.

32. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) urged the representative of Cameroon not to press the question for the time being. It touched upon one of the most complex procedural issues that the Fifth Committee would have to deal with when it came to consider the consolidated statement. Members would recall the very detailed discussions that had taken place at earlier sessions of the Committee on the operation of the contingency fund. He pointed out that, in its reports, the Advisory Committee did not say that additional appropriations were required immediately, but rather that additional expenditure would arise and that the matter of appropriations would be dealt with in the context of the consolidated statement. The question of who should make the decision was thus postponed and would be settled when the time came. The General Assembly had already designated the critical economic situation in Africa a high-priority area and the decision on the additional appropriation requested would

(Mr. Mselle)

be taken in the light of that priority and the urgency of the matter. He therefore urged the Committee not to become entangled in such a complex technical issue but to use its remaining time to the best advantage. He would have ample opportunity in due course to give a full, fair and, he trusted, satisfactory answer to the question.

33. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) said that he would not insist on his question. He could not, however, associate himself wholly with the formula that was being used to convey the Committee's decisions.

34. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that the comments of the representative of Cameroon had confirmed his own observation that the formula used by the Chairman departed somewhat from the traditional wording. He was glad that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had emphasized that there would be a consolidated statement of programme budget implications. The Chairman's formula seemed to rest on the notion that if an activity could not be covered out of the contingency fund, it would be deferred. Traditionally, the Fifth Committee had presented a consolidated statement of programme budget implications at a later stage of the session and it had been left for the General Assembly to decide, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, which programmes should, if necessary, be postponed. If the Chairman could amend his formula to reflect the concern of representatives and the fact that there was to be a consolidated statement of programme budget implications, there would be no need to ask who would decide whether or not an activity was to be postponed. The implication that the Secretary-General, or some other party, reserved the right to decide whether or not to defer an activity was a matter of concern to all delegations. Traditionally, the formula had been that, should the General Assembly adopt a resolution, certain financial requirements would arise which, if they could not be met from the regular budget, would constitute an additional expenditure. Then, when the consolidated statement was submitted, delegations were able to decide whether the costs of the activity should be met from the contingency fund or through some other arrangement.

35. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, based on the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/56 and on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolutions A/45/L.20, and A/45/L.21 and Corr.1, first it was estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, but that an estimated additional consultancy requirement of $50,000 would have to be met under section 5A of the programme budget for 1990-1991; and second, that, as the requirement of $50,000 would constitute an additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget for 1990-1991, and in the event that resources were not available from the contingency fund, the preparation of the reports mentioned in paragraphs 13 and 15 of document A/C.5/45/56 would have to be deferred, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund set forth in General Assembly resolution 42/211.

36. It was so decided.

37. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that it was his delegation's understanding that the decision in no way gave the Secretary-General the authority to decide on the deferment of activities. It was the prerogative of the General Assembly, in the context of the consolidated statement, to decide on the final funding of programmed activities.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

38. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed his delegation's deep concern at the slow pace of the Committee's work. There were 21 items on the Committee's agenda, of which it had so far completed only two. Fifteen working days remained before the end of the session and his delegation was very doubtful that it would be possible in that time to consider and adopt decisions satisfactory to all delegations on the remaining 19 agenda items. There appeared to be only two ways out of the difficulty. First, the Committee could agree to postpone a number of items until the next session of the General Assembly. His delegation would be prepared to propose the deferral of such complex and traditionally time-consuming items as the financial emergency of the United Nations, the pattern of conferences, the United Nations common system and the United Nations pension system. A decision to that effect would help the Committee considerably in successfully completing the rest of its agenda. The second course, which was being discussed more and more outside the Committee room, was the possibility of abandoning the practice of conducting informal consultations on all the complex items on the Committe's agenda and starting to vote on those items which, in the view of some representatives did not affect any position of principle. He wished to warn the Committee very seriously against choosing that course, however, since what might not appear very important to some delegations could be regarded by others as an important question of principle. If decisions not based on consensus were taken on such items, the delegations concerned might be forced to press for a vote on others, such as the outline of the budget for the next biennium. From a practical point of view, all the questions before the Fifth Committee were directly or indirectly related to the budget outline and, if the Committee failed to reach a consensus on all those matters, it was doubtful that it would be able to reach a consensus on the outline of the next budget. The political, practical, financial and other consequences of such a possibility were well known to all delegations. The Chairman might be able to suggest a third course; if so, his delegation would welcome a more detailed explanation of how he intended to plan the continuation of the Committee's work.

39. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal), Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) and Ms. SHITAKHA (Kenya) said that they shared the concern expressed by the representative of the USSR.

40. The CHAIRMAN said that the pace of the Committee's work had been determined in large measure by the pace of the release of documentation, to some extent by the method of informal consultations, and to some extent by requests from delegations to postpone their statements. While he shared the concern that had been expressed, he believed that it was too early to start deferring agenda items. He was still hopeful that, if the Committee redoubled its efforts, it would be able to finish on time. The possibility that certain issues might have to be deferred could be dealt with at a later date.

41. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said he feared that concern about the pace of work was general. While it was true that delegations were not always ready to speak and that not all documents were issued on time - a perennial problem for the Fifth Committee - the documents for items 117 and 119 had been available for a considerable time and it might have helped to clarify the views of delegations if they could have been discussed in the informal consultations. His delegation had taken note of the proposal that some items should be deferred and he recalled that the spokesman for the 12 States members of the European Community, speaking on personnel questions, had referred to the possible biennialization or even triennialization of some of the related items. The Committee might be able to find some help in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in particular, annex VI, paragraph 12, which stated that it was imperative that Main Committees should allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimate of expenditures by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee and that they should take that requirement into account when they adopted their programme of work, and paragraph 13, which stated that a mandatory deadline, not later than 1 December, should be established for the submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
40th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 5 December 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 40th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 134: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 122: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (*continued*)

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

- (d) CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE
- (e) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL
- (h) APPOINTMENT OF AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE
- (a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/45/SR.40
10 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

/...

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 134: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (A/45/493 and Add.1, A/45/502, A/45/582 and A/45/801)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the Advisory Committee's report contained in document A/45/801, which covered a number of reports of the Secretary-General on peace-keeping operations.

2. In paragraphs 2 through 9, in which the Secretary-General's report on the review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States (A/45/582) was discussed, the Advisory Committee questioned the methodology used by the Secretary-General and his decision not to recommend a change in the current rates of reimbursement. In view of the inflation that had occurred world wide since the rates had been established in 1980, it thought that some relief was necessary. If the General Assembly agreed with that conclusion, the Advisory Committee would recommend an increase of 4 per cent.

3. Paragraphs 10 through 19 dealt with the Secretary-General's report on the support account for peace-keeping operations (A/45/493). When the subject of the support account had first been raised the year before, the Advisory Committee had given its provisional approval, pending submission by the Secretary-General of detailed information on the operation of the account and its legislative control and supervision. The account would be funded by including in estimates for peace-keeping operations the equivalent of 8.5 per cent of the salaries, common staff costs and travel expenses of the "civilian establishment". The Advisory Committee's understanding of that term was stated in paragraph 14 of its report. He drew particular attention to paragraphs 14 through 16, which contained observations and recommendations that the Secretariat should consider carefully. Specifically, the Advisory Committee had some reservations regarding the methodology for determining the level of the account, its administration and management and its legislative control and supervision. It also intended to review the status of the support account more frequently than was envisaged in the report of the Secretary-General, and it wished to warn the Secretariat that the account should not be regarded as another reserve for funding new posts that were marginal to the support of peace-keeping operations.

4. Paragraphs 19 through 30 covered the Secretary-General's report on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items for United Nations peace-keeping activities (A/45/493/Add.1). For the time being, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should begin establishing the reserve stock using equipment left over from the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), supplemented, whenever practicable, from other sources. It also asked the Secretary-General to determine the extent to which some of the reserve stock requirements could be met through voluntary contributions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/49, and it requested the

/...

(Mr. Mselle)

Secretary-General to report to it at its spring session in 1991 on the status of voluntary contributions.

5. With respect to paragraphs 31 through 35, which dealt with the report of the Secretary-General on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations (A/45/502), the Advisory Committee agreed in principle with the Secretary-General's proposals subject to its observations and recommendations in paragraph 35.

6. Mr. O'BRIEN (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Australia and Canada, said that, because of the growing importance of peace-keeping activities for the Organization, the Fifth Committee needed to be especially diligent in its examination of the agenda item under consideration. As a result of their considerable experience in United Nations peace-keeping operations, the three delegations were in a position to identify certain administrative and management factors that contributed to the success of such operations. The essential elements for the establishment of an operation were, inter alia, adequate preliminary financing, ready access to equipment and materials, a comprehensive, clear plan of action agreed upon by all relevant parties, agreed start-up dates allowing for adequate planning, pre-agreed status-of-forces agreements and effective co-ordination between the policy and operations divisions of the Secretariat. For the operative stage, essential elements included reliable funding, prompt and reasonable reimbursements to troop-contributing countries, effective co-ordination within the various Secretariat units involved in preparing and managing peace-keeping, clear in-theatre, command structures effective use of military and civilian personnel, adequate training of all personnel, use of mandate periods (and, where possible, target termination dates) and an ongoing process of evaluation.

7. The report on the use of civilian personnel (A/45/502) contained some helpful suggestions. However, the three delegations could not advocate the wider use of civilians in certain operational and administrative areas at the expense of military personnel. Core military involvement was advisable for financial and security reasons and made it possible to respond speedily to urgent situations. Moreover, military personnel who had served in previous successful operations had valuable experience to offer.

8. The three delegations had endorsed the proposal made by the Secretary-General in 1989 that interested Member States should submit detailed inventories of civilian resources which could be made available for future operations. Now that such a helpful analysis of the functions that civilians might perform was available, it would perhaps be appropriate to carry out a more formal survey, along the lines of the questionnaire on military personnel, and to present the responses to the survey together with the earlier findings in a single document.

9. The Secretary-General's report on requirements for United Nations peace-keeping operations (A/45/217), with its emphasis on military resources, provided a useful starting-point for compiling a check-list of all the personnel, material and technical resources required in mounting an operation. That

/...

(Mr. O'Brien, New Zealand)

information should be combined with the data on civilian resources and the inventory of reserve stock to provide a comprehensive data base of peace-keeping requirements.

10. The three delegations had long emphasized increased Secretariat co-ordination as a key to mounting and maintaining efficient peace-keeping operations. In that regard, they welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of a support account for peace-keeping operations to replace ad hoc arrangements for temporary assistance through overload posts. Setting up a support account would strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to respond in the pre-implementation phase of operations and would provide needed flexibility in the use of resources. It should also result in posts being filled by experienced professionals. They believed that the level of funding proposed in the Secretary-General's report (A/45/493) was appropriate.

11. The chief problem faced in the start-up phase of an operation was that of adequate financial backing. In 1989 the Secretary-General had made three important proposals aimed at solving that problem: expansion of the Working Capital Fund, an increase in levels of commitment authority and the establishment of a reserve stock. Although the additional information on start-up problems requested of the Secretary-General in General Assembly resolution 44/192 had not been available during the preparation of his statement, the report of the Secretary-General on the financial emergency (A/C.5/45/17) showed that the Secretariat remained convinced of the need to increase the Working Capital Fund. However, if the expansion of that Fund proved too problematic, it would be necessary to take another look at alternatives such as the establishment of a special peace-keeping fund and large-scale increases in commitment authority. In that regard, the three delegations continued to support the proposed increases in the levels of commitment authority of the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General.

12. With respect to the report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items for United Nations peace-keeping activities (A/45/493/Add.1), the three delegations supported in principle the idea of establishing a reserve stock and endorsed the suggestion that such materials should also be drawn upon by existing operations, thereby ensuring a regular turnover of stock and keeping materials reasonably up to date. They remained convinced, however, of the need for adequate inventories of equipment and were concerned about the accessibility of such stock, especially in the light of the proposal to store it at a number of separate locations.

13. The delegations were concerned at the scant attention paid to the issue of funding, which was, in their view, a major prerequisite for the success of a peace-keeping operation. The funding of peace-keeping operations was unquestionably erratic, inefficient and unreliable. In order to remedy that deplorable situation, all Members States must pay their assessed contributions in full and on time, and, subject to that constraint, the Secretariat must reimburse troop contributors promptly. It was also necessary to continue to seek to increase the efficiency of peace-keeping management. The three delegations called for

(Mr. O'Brien, New Zealand)

efforts to refine and standardize the forecasting of expenditures for new operations and reaffirmed their belief that, under Article 17 of the Charter, the cost of a peace-keeping operation should be shared by all Member States.

14. A second area of concern related to the management of peace-keeping operations. In line with their past advocacy of a review of the division of responsibilities in that area, the three delegations applauded the establishment of the Senior Planning and Monitoring Group in January 1990. It endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that, in addition to its primary responsibilities, the Group should keep under review the organizational structure within the Secretariat relating to peace-keeping operations and make recommendations as appropriate. It would be helpful for the Group to compile a brief report at the conclusion of its first year in operation, commenting specifically on how co-ordination might be further enhanced.

15. Lastly, he wished to stress the importance attached by the three delegations to the setting of realistic implementation dates (and, in many cases, termination dates) for peace-keeping operations, to providing assigned personnel with adequate training, and the conclusion of comprehensive status-of-forces agreements prior to the start of an operation. In that regard, they were pleased to note the Secretariat's progress in drafting a standard agreement, and they looked forward to receiving that document in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 122: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (continued) (A/45/798)

16. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that parts II and III of the Advisory Committee's detailed report on administrative and budgetary co-ordination (A/45/798) covered the special subjects on which the Advisory Committee had exchanged views with the specialized agencies. One of those subjects, the question of future support-cost arrangements, would be the subject of reports to the General Assembly and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1991. Some of the other special subjects would form the basis of separate reports; brief observations on two of those subjects were included in parts IV and V.

17. In paragraphs 167 to 171, the Advisory Committee commented on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on budgeting in organizations of the United Nations system, a subject in which the Advisory Committee intended to continue its long-standing involvement. It wished to point out, however, that the pursuit of harmonization and standardization of budgetary practices should not be regarded as ends in themselves. As the Advisory Committee had noted in the past, it might not be possible, in view of the mandates and programme structures of the various organizations, and the specific requests of various legislative bodies in the United Nations system, to achieve complete harmonization and standardization of all the organizations' budgetary practices. Member States might bear that constraint in mind in the course of their discussions and decisions. Meanwhile, they might

/...

(Mr. Mselle)

perhaps address their efforts to requesting organizations of the United Nations system to refine the presentation of their budgets, to simplify documents and to make them more transparent. As many members of the Fifth Committee were aware, it would be necessary, at some future date, to review the format and presentation of the United Nations regular budget: although postponed as a result of the changes arising from the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213, it was to be hoped that the Advisory Committee could address that issue in due course. The failure to achieve clarity, simplicity and transparency in documentation need not always be attributed to a lack of harmonization or standardization.

18. With regard to the issue of relationships between the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), the Advisory Committee intended to continue to follow the situation closely and to meet with all parties concerned.

19. Subsequent to the preparation of document A/45/798, the Advisory Committee had discussed ways and means of improving the future presentation of such reports to the General Assembly. Noting the considerable interest in the subject of administrative and budgetary co-ordination, it intended to make its reporting more responsive to the needs of the General Assembly in discharging its responsibilities under Article 17 of the Charter. In that connection, it was planning to replace the current format by one which would take into account the extensive information prepared by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) on the programmes and resources of different organizations. The Advisory Committee would strive to ensure the timely presentation of statistical information to the General Assembly and increase its efforts to report on issues of system-wide concern, including, *inter alia*, conference services, procurement and agency support costs. Such changes would, following consultation with ACC, be reflected in the Advisory Committee's next report on administrative and budgetary co-ordination.

The meeting was suspended at 11.20 a.m. and resumed at 11.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

20. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee of the basic rules governing elections, as contained in rule 92 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and paragraph 16 of General Assembly decision 34/401.

(d) CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE (A/45/104; A/C.5/45/14)

21. The CHAIRMAN said that, in document A/C.5/45/14, the Secretary-General had submitted for confirmation by the General Assembly the reappointment of Mr. Guyot (France), Mr. Johnston (United States of America) and Mr. Matsukawa (Japan) as members of the Investments Committee for three-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1991. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend confirmation of those appointments by acclamation.

22. *It was so decided*.

/...

(e) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL (A/45/105; A/C.5/45/39)

23. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the General Assembly was required to appoint two persons to fill vacancies that would arise in the membership of the Administrative Tribunal on 31 December 1990. The Secretary-General had indicated that Mr. de Posadas Montero (Uruguay) and Mr. Voicu (Romania) had been nominated by their respective Governments for appointment. Since the number of candidates corresponded to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Committee wished to dispense with the secret ballot.

24. It was so decided.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend the appointment of those candidates for three-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

26. It was so decided.

(h) APPOINTMENT OF AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE (A/45/142; A/C.5/45/41)

27. The CHAIRMAN said that, as indicated in document A/45/142, Mr. Maus (Mexico) had resigned as an alternate member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee. The General Assembly would therefore be required to appoint a replacement to serve for the unexpired portion of his term of office, until 31 December 1991. In document A/C.5/45/41, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that the Government of Mexico had nominated Mr. Duhalt to fill the unexpired portion of the term of office of Mr. Maus. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend by acclamation the appointment of Mr. Duhalt to membership of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for a one-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

28. It was so decided.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

29. The CHAIRMAN said that the General Assembly was required to appoint five persons to fill vacancies which would arise in the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with the expiry of the terms of office of five of its members on 31 December 1990. He thanked members of the Committee for their efforts to expedite the appointments through informal consultations, despite the absence of the required documentation.

30. Mr. RUEDAS (Spain), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, said that the Group had endorsed the candidacies of Mr. Fox (United States of America) and Mr. Kinchen (United Kingdom) for appointment as members of the Advisory Committee.

/...

31. Mr. KOULYK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, said that the Group had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Bidny (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee.

32. Ms. MONTAÑO (Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, said that the Group had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Fontaine Ortiz (Cuba) for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee.

33. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Ladjouzi (Algeria) for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee.

34. The CHAIRMAN said that the Group of Asian States had, in the course of informal consultations, indicated that it had no objection to the current procedure for appointment of members of the Advisory Committee. The representatives of the other regional groups had indicated that Mr. Bidny (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. Fontaine Ortiz (Cuba), Mr. Fox (United States of America), Mr. Kinchen (United Kingdom) and Mr. Ladjouzi (Algeria) had been nominated for appointment to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Since the number of candidates corresponded to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Committee wished to dispense with a secret ballot.

35. It was so decided.

36. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend the appointment of those candidates for three-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

37. It was so decided.

38. Mr. INOMATA (Japan), said that while he applauded the Chairman's efficiency in securing a decision on appointments to the Advisory Committee, the proper procedure should be followed in the future, including the provision of full documentation by the Secretariat. That requirement applied, in particular, to the appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions.

39. Mr. LOPEZ (Venezuela) suggested, in view of the proposal by his delegation that the geographical composition of the Committee on Contributions should be modified with effect from 1 January 1991, that the appointment of members of that Committee be postponed until the Fifth Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 125.

40. The CHAIRMAN said that the Fifth Committee would not be in a position to act on such a modification, even if adopted, until the next session of the General Assembly. He would nevertheless bear in mind the concern expressed by the representative of Venezuela.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
41st meeting
held on
Friday, 7 December 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 41st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 134: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS (continued)

- (b) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS
- (c) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS
- (f) INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
  - (i) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
  - (ii) DESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1990

Comprehensive review of the after-service health insurance programme

Review of the functioning and administrative support of the departments having mandates related to global social development issues and proposals for the strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna

Conference services at Vienna

Division of Administrative and Common Services, Vienna

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/45/SR.41
12 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

90-57527 3369S (E)

/...

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 134: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (*continued*) (A/45/493 and Add.1, A/45/502, A/45/582 and A/45/801)

1. Mr. TRAXLER (Italy), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the Twelve, which had consistently supported the role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter, considered the new-found unity of purpose among members of the Security Council particularly encouraging. The prospect of new peace-keeping operations fully justified the Fifth Committee's continued interest in the adequacy of existing administrative and budgetary arrangements and the possibilities for improving them. In that context, it should be recalled, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 44/192 A, that each peace-keeping operation had special characteristics, which thus called for flexibility in addressing the administrative requirements of each operation.

2. Apart from providing political support, the Twelve were liable for some 30 per cent of the total costs of United Nations peace-keeping operations. Since those costs had risen substantially over the past two years, it was all the more essential that budget estimates should command the confidence of Member States. While it was gratifying to note the progress already made in ensuring transparency of information, further efforts were clearly required to prevent appropriations from significantly exceeding requirements. In that connection, it was regrettable that the failure of some Member States to pay their assessed contributions for peace-keeping promptly and in full should have obliged troop contributors to bear a substantial proportion of the related costs and to face unacceptable delays in full payment of the standard rates of reimbursement. The Twelve firmly believed that peace-keeping costs should, whether included in the regular budget or financed through special accounts, be regarded as mandatory expenses - unless decided otherwise by the Security Council - to be borne by all Members of the Organization. With respect to the apportionment of the costs of peace-keeping operations, they wished to recall the action taken, at the request of Spain, by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session and reiterated their view that classification in groups "b", "c" or "d" should not be considered definitive but instead depend on long-term trends in the development of individual States' capacity to pay.

3. With regard to the review of the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing States, the Twelve, while appreciating the need for confidentiality, urged all such States to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General. Some consideration should now be given to an increase in the rates of reimbursement. The Twelve welcomed the increase in the number of Member States contributing personnel and hoped that trend would continue, taking account of the requirements of each mission, the views of the parties directly involved and the interest expressed by all Members of the Organization.

/...

(Mr. Traxler, Italy)

4. The proposals for a support account and a reserve stock of equipment were clearly designed to help the Organization to respond flexibly, effectively and promptly when the need arose for a new peace-keeping operation. The Twelve wished to consider further the specific arrangements proposed in the light of the pertinent reports of the Secretary-General, the comments of the Advisory Committee and the additional information provided to the Fifth Committee.

5. The utmost clarity was required in connection with the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations. The Advisory Committee itself appeared to have had difficulty in fully understanding paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report (A/45/502). The procedure suggested for the employment of such personnel, as indicated in paragraph 14 of the same report, seemed reasonable. However, the Twelve agreed with the Advisory Committee that such arrangements should be kept under review, taking into account the various operational requirements.

6. Clearly, the financial implications of peace-keeping operations must be subject to the strictest possible limits. It should be recalled, however, that peace had its price and that the costs were infinitely lower than those of war.

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS (continued)

(b) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS (A/45/102; A/C.5/45/37)

7. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee of rules 158 and 159 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. The General Assembly was required to appoint six persons to fill vacancies which would arise in the membership of the Committee on Contributions with the expiry of the terms of office of six of its members on 31 December 1990. In document A/C.5/45/37, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that seven persons had been nominated by their respective Governments for appointment of reappointment. The number of candidates from the Group of Asian States, the Group of Eastern European States, and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States corresponded to the number of vacancies for those Groups. If he heard no objection, therefore, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend by acclamation the appointment of Mr. Ali (Pakistan), Mr. Chulkov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. Duhalt (Mexico), Mr. Wang Liansheng (China) to membership of the Committee on Contributions for three-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

8. It was so decided.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, as there were three candidates for the two vacancies for the Group of Western European and Other States, the Committee would hold a secret ballot. He reminded members of the Committee of rule 94 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

10. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Wu Gang (China), Mr. Tisler (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. Clavijo (Colombia) acted as tellers.

/...

11. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.05 a.m. and resumed at 11.45 a.m.

Number of ballot papers:	146
Invalid ballots:	4
Number of valid ballots:	142
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	142
Required majority:	72
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Amneus	98
Mr. Sessi	88
Mr. Zoel	85

12. Mr. Amneus (Sweden) and Mr. Sessi (Italy) having obtained the required majority, the Committee recommended their appointment as members of the Committee on Contributions for three-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

(c) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS (A/45/103; A/C.5/45/38)

13. Mr. AL-SUWAIDI (United Arab Emirates), speaking as Chairman of the Group of Asian States, said that Jordan had decided to withdraw its candidate in favour of the candidate of Ghana.

14. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda), speaking as Chairman of the Group of African States, expressed appreciation to the Group of Asian States for showing understanding and attempting to facilitate the election of the Ghanian candidate by acclamation.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that the General Assembly was required to appoint the Auditor-General, or officer holding the equivalent title, of a Member State to a position on the Board of Auditors which would fall vacant on 1 July 1991, since the term of office of the Auditor-General of Ghana would expire on 30 June 1991. Since the Government of Jordan had withdrawn the candidacy of the President of the Government Audit Office for Jordan and there was only one candidate for the vacancy, he would take it that the Committee wished to dispense with the secret ballot.

16. It was so decided.

/...

17. *The CHAIRMAN* said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend by acclamation the reappointment of the Auditor-General of Ghana to the Board of Auditors for a term of office beginning on 1 July 1991 and ending on 30 June 1994.

18. *It was so decided*.

(f) INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (A/45/106 and Add.1, A/C.5/45/40)

(i) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

(ii) DESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

19. *The CHAIRMAN* said that it was necessary for the General Assembly to appoint five persons to fill vacancies in the membership of the International Civil Service Commission which would arise on 31 December 1990. The General Assembly must also designate a chairman and Vice-Chairman from among the members of the Commission (A/45/106, para. 6). In addition, one person must be appointed to fill the unexpired portion of the term of office of Mr. Terekhov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), whose resignation was reported in document A/45/106/Add.1. The number of candiates for the Group of Eastern European States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and Other States corresponded to the number of vacancies for those Groups. If he heard no objection, therefore, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend by acclamation the appointment of Mr. Pirson (Belgium) and Mr. Ríha (Czechoslovakia) as members and Mr. Vegega (Argentina) as member and Vice-Chairman for four-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

20. *It was so decided*.

21. *The CHAIRMAN* pointed out that the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had recommended Mr. Dryukov for appointment to serve the unexpired portion of the term of office of Mr. Terekhov. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend by acclamation the appointment of Mr. Dryukov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) for a two-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

22. *It was so decided*.

23. *The CHAIRMAN* said that two vacancies needed to be filled by the Group of African States. On the basis of consultations, the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend the appointment of Mr. Richard M. Akwei (Ghana), Mr. Mohsen Belhaj Amor (Tunisia) and Mrs. Turkia Daddah (Mauritania). As there were three candidates for the two vacancies for the Group of African States, the Committee would hold a secret ballot.

24. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Wu Gang (China), Mr. Clavijo (Colombia), Mr. Tisler (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. Karkutly (Saudi Arabia) acted as tellers*.

/...

25. *A vote was taken by secret ballot*.

Number of ballot papers:	153
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	152
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	152
Required majority:	77
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Akwei	93
Mr. Amor	97
Mrs. Daddah	98

26. *Mr. Amor (Tunisia) having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend his appointment as member and Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991*.

27. *Mrs. Daddah (Mauritania) having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend her appointment as member of the International Civil Service Commission for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991*.

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (*continued*)

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1990 (A/45/7/Add.8; A/C.5/45/31)

28. *Mr. MSELLE* (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee was recommending an estimate of additional requirements in 1990-1991, totalling $451,000, attributable to three resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during 1990, on the understanding that such additional appropriations as might be requested by the Secretary-General would be dealt with in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its current session. With regard to Council resolution 1990/72 concerning the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, it recommended, as an interim measure, that a subvention in the amount of $392,200 should be made under section 13 of the regular budget for the biennium 1990-1991. It also recommended that the General Assembly should request the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to urge the Administrator to implement fully Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/72 and that the Secretary-General should be requested to report to

/...

(Mr. Mselle)

the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of its request to the Governing Council of UNDP.

29. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee was adopted without objection.

30. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Fifth Committee should take note of the reports of the Secretary-General contained in documents A/C.5/45/4, A/C.5/45/30, A/C.5/45/32, A/C.5/45/62 and A/C.5/45/63 and the report of the Advisory Committee contained in document A/45/7/Add.6. He further proposed that the Committee should endorse the recommendations of ACABQ, contained in paragraphs 25, 27 and 28 of document A/45/7/Add.6.

31. The proposal was adopted.

32. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that the revised estimates relating to resolutions of the Economic and Social Council in 1990 included funding for a number of programmes which his delegation did not support. The activities described in Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/11 on the situation of Palestinian women would not advance the cause of peace in the Middle East. Similar programmes undertaken in recent years had amounted to no more than political diatribe representing the biased views of the United Nations on the question of Palestine. It was doubtful that the programme would genuinely help to improve the conditions under which Palestinian women lived. The fact that his delegation had not called for a separate vote did not imply that it supported the programme.

33. Referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/71 on activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, he expressed doubt that the Centre would issue unbiased reports, in the light of its past performance, and hope that it would engage in fresh thinking. Its requests for funding seemed excessive in view of the substantial amounts budgeted for consultants and ad hoc experts under section 9. Perhaps such requests were related to the Centre's limited capabilities.

34. In conclusion, his delegation had reservations concerning the proposal to include in the regular budget resources for the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning. His delegation noted that the Institute's financial crisis was the result of shortfalls in contributions by both Member States and its chief source of funding UNDP (A/C.5/45/31, para. 24). Financing the Institute's activities from the regular budget was not in the long-term interest of the United Nations, which had its own financial difficulties, especially when the beneficiaries of the Institute's activities did not seem to attach great importance to them.

35. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) supported the statement by the representative of the United States of America and welcomed the recommendations of ACABQ on the matters under consideration.

/...

36. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) endorsed the comments made by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/45/7/Add.8, para. 9) concerning the need for the Secretariat to provide indications of alternatives in the event that additional expenditures proposed exceeded resources available within the contingency fund.

Comprehensive review of the after-service health insurance programme (A/45/7/Add.9; A/C.5/45/33)

37. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) recommended that the Fifth Committee take note of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee (A/C.5/45/33 and A/45/7/Add.9).

38. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee was adopted without objection.

39. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that the after-service health insurance programme of the United Nations did not take into account the interests of Member States forced to pay ever-increasing health care premiums. At the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, his delegation had pointed out the sevenfold increase that had occurred in the after-service health insurance programme over the past decade. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, participation in the programme was expected to increase rapidly in the early 1990s. The current subsidy of $14 million was larger than the allocations to 12 other programmes in the Organization's regular budget. The cost of the programme was expected to exceed the combined budgets of the United Nations environment and drug programmes, and ultimately, of the human rights programme as well.

40. The report of the Secretary-General represented only a first step in rethinking the policy of subsidizing after-service health insurance from the regular budget. His delegation fully agreed that extrabudgetary programmes should bear the costs too and regretted that the Secretary-General had not proposed a scheme for apportioning a greater share of those costs in 1991. While the cost of the integrated management information systems (IMIS) Project was surprising, it could rapidly prove to be a worthwhile investment if it accurately apportioned costs. The Secretary-General's report did not clarify whether the regular budget also subsidized health insurance for retired staff members of extrabudgetary programmes such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNDP.

41. Recognizing that health care costs had increased significantly, his delegation believed none the less that the cost of the United Nations programme had skyrocketed mainly because it was among the best available to any group of employees, public or private. The quality of health care coverage in the comparator civil service or even the private sector did not compare with the plans offered by the United Nations. Indeed, in the private sector, many employers had been forced to reduce health coverage or face bankruptcy, and senior citizens in the United States were paying higher premiums for reduced coverage as a result of the national budget deficit.

42. Rather than limiting coverage to the most expensive plans, the United Nations should offer a wide selection of health care plans to staff members and retirees

/...

(Mr. Michalski, United States)

burdened by the rising cost of health care premiums. The United States Government, for example, offered some 20 plans with a view to accommodating the needs of its staff and their ability to contribute to their medical coverage. His delegation urged that the United Nations should do likewise - a proposal which had been rejected in 1983. While accepting the proposals contained in document A/C.5/45/33, his delegation believed that a comprehensive review of health care plans should offer greater choice and take into account the burdens currently imposed on Member States.

Review of the functioning and administrative support of the departments having mandates related to global social development issues and proposals for the strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna

Conference services at Vienna

Division of Administrative and Common Services, Vienna (A/45/7/Add.6; A/C.5/45/4, A/C.5/45/30, A/C.5/45/32, A/C.5/45/62 and A/C.5/45/63)

43. Mr. BAZAN (Chile) expressed support for the criteria advocated by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) for the establishment of common services (A/39/520). Referring to paragraph 15 of the report of the Secretary-General on conference serivces at Vienna (A/C.5/45/30), he said that savings would not be as significant if all the specialized agencies were not part of the integrated process. Commenting on the Advisory Committee's views concerning IAEA, he said that his delegation could not support the proposed unification if it entailed greater costs for any of the agencies concerned.

44. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that United Nations organizations and programmes did not exist to provide jobs for those on the United Nations payroll. His delegation hoped that differences of opinion on the structure of administrative services in Vienna would be resolved and specific recommendations would be made to the relevant governing bodies. Any new or revised arrangements should increase productivity and reduce costs. His delegation was convinced that rationalization would lead to better programme delivery at lower cost and that staff increases were not necessary.

45. Referring to paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report (A.45/7/Add.6), he said that the reluctance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to become part of a common conference service was puzzling. The IAEA position suggested that United Nations conference services were not cost-effective. If, indeed, IAEA was able to provide conference services more efficiently, its system should be applied in the United Nations as well.

46. His delegation was pleased to note that the Secretary-General planned to take immediate action on the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning the apportionment of administrative costs between the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). His delegation was concerned that subsidies from the United Nations regular budget were being provided to UNIDO. it was particularly concerned in view of the fact that UNIDO had been

/...

(Mr. Michalski, United States)

granted a substantial loan and had not honoured the agreed terms of repayment. The expected savings in the 1992-1993 programme budget should amply offset the additional expenditures required to create a new D-2 post. It was regrettable that a new post must be create for such negotiations, which suggested that existing staff were not up to the task.

47. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/45/4, he said that his delegation would have preferred the Secretary-General's proposals for the 1990-1991 budget on administrative support for global social development programmes. Any solutions contained in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 should be consistent with the staff reduction target set in General Assembly resolution 41/213. Additional staff which proved to be necessary must be provided through redeployment.

48. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) expressed support for the statement by the delegation of the United States. His delegation also supported budgetary transparency and the accurate allocation of costs incurred. Rigorous budgeting procedures were essential and optimal use must be made of resources. It was regrettable that proposals made at the previous session of the General Assembly, which did not include administrative support, had not been adopted.

49. Mr. ANDEMICAEL (International Atomic Energy Agency) said that the International Atomic Energy Agency was deeply concerned over the reports of the Secretary-General on conference services at Vienna (A/C.5/45/30) and the Division of Administrative and Common Services at Vienna (A/C.5/45/32). Although both of the reports dealt with matters of direct concern to IAEA, the Agency had not been given any opportunity to comment on them before they were submitted to ACABQ, a procedure which contravened the understanding between the United Nations, UNIDO and IAEA. It was important to reach mutually agreed solutions in respect of conference services at Vienna; the United Nations could not impose solutions on autonomous agencies.

50. The reference by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 3 of its report (A/45/7/Add.6) to consultations with IAEA was inaccurate, since only discussions and not formal consultations had been held. Further, the Agency had understood that the May 1990 meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee for Conference Services at Vienna had been solely for the purpose of reviewing existing arrangements and that it had not been requested to conduct a major study and recommend changes. With regard to the suggestion that the Agency might wish to integrate its conference services with those of the United Nations and UNIDO, the Committee would note the strong objections of IAEA to any such arrangement since it saw no advantage of economy or efficiency.

51. IAEA noted the Advisory Committee's comments in paragraph 9 of its report that the proposal to form a single unified service for the United Nations and UNIDO should not prejudice the establishment of a common service should all three parties reach agreement, but had serious reservations with regard to the suggestion, in paragraph 11 of the report, that the Secretary-General should submit a report on the matter to the Advisory Committee on behalf of the United Nations alone rather

(Mr. Andemicael, IAEA)

than seek to arrive at an agreed report to be approved by each organization in accordance with its constitutional requirements. The statement that the envisaged common service should be administered by the United Nations prejudged the outcome of consultations.

52. IAEA welcomed the proposal to review cost-sharing arrangements and the issue of compensation with regard to all common services at Vienna, and appreciated the Advisory Committee's comments, in paragraph 22 of its report, concerning supposed overcharging of the United Nations. In that connection the Agency regretted the reference in draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.5 to "excessive costs" charged to the United Nations Office at Vienna.

53. The problem of conference services and other common services should be addressed in a truly tripartite manner, with adequate time for in-depth consideration. The results should then be submitted to the respective governing bodies of the organizations concerned, in accordance with normal procedure.

54. Mr. AGAIANTS (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that the question of common services at Vienna should be approached through tripartite or, where necessary, bilateral consultations involving the parties concerned. The existing legal régime should be strictly adhered to. In the area of conference services, the ultimate goal of a common arrangement accommodating the needs of all organs of the United Nations system at Vienna should not be compromised by partial measures. Any restructuring should avoid additional costs. UNIDO expected the United Nations Secretariat to share with it the information which had prompted the reference to "excessive costs" in draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.5. The wording of paragraphs 11 and 12 of that draft resolution should be reviewed by the General Assembly. Finally, he requested the Committee, in the draft resolution to be formulated on the item before it, to take note of the position of UNIDO.

55. Mr. PATTERSON (Director and Chief Editor, Editorial and Official Records Divison, Department of Conference Services) said that the Department welcomed the willingness of IAEA and UNIDO to co-operate in the study of common services at Vienna. The United Nations had always considered inter-agency co-operation to be of the utmost importance. In that connection, the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments had written to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna in February 1990 proposing the reconvening of the Advisory Committee for Conference Services in order to analyse requirements and consider the implications of establishing a unified service at Vienna. The Department of Conference Services had requested updated statistics to facilitate further consideration of the matter. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna had informed IAEA of the concern felt at United Nations Headquarters regarding the spiralling costs of conference-servicing activities at Vienna and also informed the Agency that it would be invited to participate in any discussion of the matter. The Department of Conference Services trusted that fruitful consultations on the question would continue in 1991.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
42nd meeting
held on
Monday, 10 December 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 122: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 134: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 131: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.26 concerning agenda item 76

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions of the Third Committee in document A/45/756 concerning agenda item 100

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.62 concerning agenda item 12

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 12

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/45/SR.42
14 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

/...

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 122: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (continued) (A/45/798)

1. Mr. TRAXLER (Italy), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, commended the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for its report (A/45/798), which was of significant value to the General Assembly in exercising its functions under Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations.

2. The question of co-ordination within the United Nations system in general, and administrative and budgetary co-ordination in particular, had been discussed in the Fifth Committee and other relevant bodies for many years. The organizational arrangements reflected in the Charter had represented a compromise between the idea of a strong central leadership - in other words, a Secretariat with overall power in the area of co-ordination - and that of a functionally decentralized system. The structure thus established had enhanced co-operation among all countries in accordance with the wishes of the drafters of the Charter.

3. More recently, however, the increased demands placed on the United Nations system had demonstrated the necessity of better co-ordination. Opinions differed, however, as to the meaning of co-ordination and the means of achieving it.

4. Co-ordination must not deteriorate into a mere exchange of information. The Fifth Committee was the only intergovernmental forum for the evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the common system in the administrative and budgetary field; there continued to be a need for careful intergovernmental supervision.

5. The Twelve supported the goals of progressive harmonization and comparability of the administrative and budgetary practices of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency with those of the United Nations system as a whole. In that connection, he drew attention to General Assembly resolutions 40/177, 40/244 and 40/250. He had also taken note with appreciation of the Joint Inspection Unit report (A/45/130). The Twelve attached particular importance, first, to promoting complementary efforts and the most effective use of resources, and secondly, to maintaining the common system as an instrument for avoiding wasteful competition and controlling costs.

6. He looked forward to the progress report on the implementation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Governing Council decision 90/26 on agency support costs and to the Advisory Committee's views on that subject, which was of system-wide concern.

7. The goal of avoiding duplication and overlapping should be pursued with determination by all parties concerned. Ultimately, the success of co-ordination would depend upon the extent to which each Member State was willing and able to develop coherent system-wide policies and to implement them with equal consistency in each of the governing bodies of the system.

/...

8. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the work of the Organization continued to suffer from a certain inertia and lack of balance and that of its various agencies and organizations from duplication. The USSR therefore accorded high priority to efforts to rationalize the work of the United Nations and stressed the need to transform the system into a highly efficient, self-regulating mechanism. The joint meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) had highlighted the need for more effective use to be made of the resources of the United Nations system, by strengthening the role of the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, by enhancing the central co-ordinating role of the General Assembly and by transforming the yearly overview reports by ACC into a central guiding and co-ordinating instrument in the Organization's work. There was an urgent need for practical efforts to achieve those objectives through improved administrative and budgetary co-ordination, which would lead to a more effective and economic use of the available material and human resources.

9. It was encouraging that the proposals to enhance administrative and budgetary co-ordination within the United Nations system were supported by nearly all the Member States and were unaffected by contentious political issues.

10. The leading role in administrative and budgetary co-ordination should be played by ACABQ, in full implementation of the provisions of the Charter and the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, authorizing it to examine the budgets of the specialized agencies and to make appropriate recommendations. The Advisory Committee required no additional powers and should be urged by the General Assembly to exercise its existing mandate to the full with the co-operation of all the United Nations specialized agencies.

11. His delegation welcomed the statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that the Advisory Committee intended to change the format of its report by incorporating in it specific data, of practical benefit to the entire United Nations system, based on information provided by ACC and the Advisory Committee. That new content would, it was hoped, enable the Committee to meet the General Assembly's request for a detailed study of the administrative and budgetary procedures and practices of the various specialized agencies and of questions of system-wide co-ordination.

AGENDA ITEM 134: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued) (A/45/493 and Add.1 and A/45/582; A/45/502 and A/45/801)

12. Mr. GROSSMAN (United States of America) said that the maintenance of international peace and security was the most important responsibility of the United Nations. The Security Council's actions with regard to the Gulf crisis demonstrated that the United Nations could fulfil the expectations of its founders. The Secretary-General's tireless negotiating efforts deserved the continued support of all Member States.

(Mr. Grossman, United States)

13. Over the years, his country had played a leading role in providing support to United Nations peace-keeping forces and would continue to do its utmost to ensure the success of peace-keeping efforts. Despite severe budgetary constraints, the United States Administration and Congress had made a commitment to pay outstanding peace-keeping assessments. The current fiscal year 1991 appropriation approved by the Congress provided for an initial payment of 20 per cent of the amount outstanding. It was to be hoped that the Fifth Committee would take into account the full record of his country's commitment to United Nations peace-keeping operations, which clearly invalidated the invidious remarks made by some delegations concerning its alleged view of the Organization's role in such endeavours.

14. With regard to the rates of reimbursement, to the Governments of troop-contributing States (A/45/582) the Secretary-General's review did not provide sufficient information to conclude that an increase in the current rates was justified. The Advisory Committee believed that the study should have included data on a larger number of troop-contributing countries over a longer period, and it had also pointed out serious methodological problems in the Secretary-General's analysis of the data contained in the report. Since the Advisory Committee's recommendation was not based on an assessment of the actual costs involved, he had difficulty in accepting the proposed increase of 4 per cent. Such an increase would be most untimely in view of the greater costs for significantly expanded peace-keeping operations with which the Organization was faced. It was time for the Assembly to re-examine the basic concept of reimbursement and consider requesting Member States to provide troops without seeking reimbursement.

15. In principle, he supported the idea of establishing a support account for peace-keeping operations on the ground that it would provide greater flexibility to the Secretariat. However, the account should not be used as a means of financing peace-keeping activities which could legitimately be funded from the regular budget. Such uses were implied by the statement in paragraph 4 of document A/45/493 that any unencumbered balance would provide "assistance to the offices dealing with peace-keeping matters during periods of peak work-load". Furthermore, paragraph 11 suggested that surplus funds in the account would be used to support the pre-implementation phase of new operations and activities relating to good offices. Clear guidelines were required in that regard.

16. He shared the Advisory Committee's reservations concerning the method for assessing and apportioning administrative costs among the various peace-keeping operations. Such procedures represented only a first step in developing a methodology for determining peace-keeping administrative costs. He had also been troubled by the indications given in document A/45/493 that the account would be used to expand staffing, and strongly supported the comments made in that regard in paragraph 16 of the ACABQ report (A/45/801).

17. The additional information provided by the Secretary-General with regard to the establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supplies helped to answer many of the questions raised during the debate on that item at the previous

/...

(Mr. Grossman, United States)

session. Nevertheless, he felt strongly that the time was not ripe for a substantial further increase in assessments for Member States, and he therefore agreed that surplus equipment from the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) should be used to create the reserve and that additional supplies should be funded through voluntary contributions.

18. The proposals concerning the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations appeared to be satisfactory, although some issues required further clarification. For example, he did not understand why countries providing large groups of civilian personnel should receive reimbursements at the rates applied to those providing military personnel. He also requested an explanation for the proposal that different compensation policies should be provided for different categories of civilian personnel, and, in general, shared the views of ACABQ as set out in paragraph 35 of document A/45/801.

19. Current United Nations practices with regard to peace-keeping operations might not be as cost-effective as possible. The Secretariat should, as a matter of priority, review existing policies in areas such as personnel costs - particularly reimbursement rates for civilian staff - contingent-owned equipment, the rotation of troops and the use of commercial contractors.

20. As the representative of New Zealand had recently pointed out, there were a number of different offices and units within the Secretariat which were responsible for peace-keeping matters. The newly established Senior Planning and Monitoring Group for Peace-keeping Operations had been intended to improve the co-ordination and management of existing and future peace-keeping operations. He would appreciate information concerning the functioning of that group.

21. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) welcomed the proposal to establish a support account for peace-keeping operations and the Advisory Committee's recommendations in that regard.

22. Recent experience had shown that an increase in the use of civilian personnel made it possible for Member States to participate more widely in peace-keeping operations. Such arrangements were also more cost-effective. She was in favour of a flexible approach under which the Secretary-General would examine the use of civilian personnel on a case-by-case basis; she therefore supported the views expressed in document A/45/502, as well as the Advisory Committee's intention to keep the policy and criteria of payment to civilian personnel and the reimbursement of contributing countries under review.

23. Concerning the establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supplies, her delegation, while generally supporting the idea, had some unanswered questions, particularly with regard to funding. The Advisory Committee's recommendation that the stock should be purchased from UNTAG did not solve the problem, and she would therefore be grateful for further information on financing and on the question of adequate inventories of equipment.

/...

(*Ms. Rotheiser, Austria*)

24. With regard to the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing States, she welcomed the provision of sufficient information from those troop contributors whose data had not been available at the forty-fourth session.

25. As illustrated in annex IV to document A/45/582, most troop contributors bore the main share of their costs themselves, and that burden had been increasing steadily over the past decade. She therefore fully agreed with ACABQ that some relief was necessary. However, in view of world-wide inflation over the past decade, an increase of only 4 per cent could not be considered adequate.

26. The willingness of Member States to finance peace-keeping operations was proof of their commitment to conflict resolution. In view of the large volume of outstanding contributions to the peace-keeping budget, that commitment might be open to question. The failure of Member States to pay their assessed contributions was not only contrary to their obligations under the Charter, but also prevented the Secretary-General from reimbursing troop contributors promptly.

27. The problem of creating a sound and secure financial basis for peace-keeping operations could not be solved without addressing the historical anomaly of the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) by voluntary contributions. She therefore strongly urged a change in the system of financing of UNFICYP from voluntary to assessed contributions.

AGENDA ITEM 131: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (A/45/718 and A/45/827)

28. *Mr. MSELLE* (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had agreed to the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report (A/45/718) with minor changes. For the reasons set out in paragraphs 9 and 10 of its report (A/45/827), the Advisory Committee had recommended that the General Assembly should approve an estimate of $4,381,900 gross for the last phase of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM), as against the Secretary-General's estimate of $4,613,800 gross.

29. With regard to the disposition of assets of UNAVEM, the Committee was in general agreement with the Secretary-General's proposal set out in paragraph 9 of his report but requested that it should be provided in advance with indicative schedules of the equipment to be put into reserve or otherwise disposed of.

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (*continued*)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.26 concerning agenda item 76 (A/C.5/45/55)

30. *Mr. MSELLE* (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the adoption of the draft resolution would not entail any additional appropriations.

/...

31. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to decide without a vote to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution, no additional appropriation would be required for the biennium 1990-1991.

32. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions of the Third Committee in A/45/756 concerning agenda item 100 (A/C.5/45/59)

33. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/45/59) dealt with the programme budget implications of 11 of the 17 draft resolutions on agenda item 100 contained in the Third Committee's report (A/45/756) which related to the biennium 1990-1991, but he noted that the 11 draft resolutions would also have implications for the proposed programme budgets for the biennium 1992-1993 and beyond. Drawing attention to the additional 1991 costs detailed in paragraph 6 of the statement, and to the assumptions outlined in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, he noted that the Secretary-General had estimated additional financial requirements for 1991, excluding conference-servicing costs, at $364,900.

34. The Advisory Committee recommended that the four posts requested by the Secretary-General should be maintained as temporary posts during 1991 and that their continued existence should be reviewed in connection with the Committee's consideration of the programme budget proposals for 1992-1993.

35. With reference to the estimates for conference-servicing requirements of $387,500 set out in paragraph 11, he noted that the adoption of the draft resolutions under consideration would not entail any additional appropriation under section 29 (Conference and library services) in the biennium 1990-1991.

36. Drawing attention to paragraph 10 of the statement, he said that any additional appropriations requested by the Secretary-General would be considered in the context of a consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its current session in accordance with section C of the annex to resolution 42/211.

37. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to inform the General Assembly that, if it adopted draft resolutions 1, 2, 4, 6, 9 to 13 and 15 contained in the report of the Third Committee (A/45/756), additional requirements in the amount of $364,900 would arise under section 8 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991; that those requirements would constitute an additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget, and would be subject to the criteria for use of the contingency fund set out in General Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987; that the additional requirements would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates to be submitted towards the end of the current session, in

/...

(The Chairman)

accordance with the provisions of resolution 42/211; and that an amount of $35,000 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by an equal amount of income under section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

38. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.62 concerning agenda item 12 (A/C.5/45/60)

39. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) drew attention to paragraphs 13 to 16 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/45/60) which set out the resource requirements arising from the adoption of the draft International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. As noted by the Secretary-General, should the draft Convention be adopted, additional provisions totalling $1,772,000 for conference-servicing costs and $975,604 for non-conference-servicing costs would be included in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993.

40. Those estimates included the emoluments which the members of the Committee established under the draft Convention would receive pursuant to article 72, paragraph 8, of that instrument. In paragraph 15 of document A/C.5/45/60, the Secretary-General had suggested that in determining the level of such emoluments, the Assembly might wish to be guided by its resolutions 35/218, which authorized the provision of $5,000 per year to the Chairman and $3,000 per year to each of the members of the Human Rights Committee, and 44/201 A, under which the members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child received similar emoluments. In that context, he noted that in its resolution 35/218, the Assembly had reaffirmed the principle enunciated in General Assembly resolution 2489 (XXIII) according to which neither a fee nor any other remuneration in addition to subsistence allowances should normally be paid to members of organs or subsidiary organs unless expressly decided upon by the General Assembly. By the same resolution, the Assembly had revised the rates of honoraria which it had already authorized on an exceptional basis. Resolution 44/201 A had authorized the payment of honoraria to members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, also on an exceptional basis.

41. Given the Third Committee's views on the payment of honoraria, he was unable to take a position on the issue. At the same time, he requested the Secretary-General to provide to the Advisory Committee, prior to its examination of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, a report on the methods of financing treaty and convention bodies with particular reference to the payment of honoraria so that the Committee could make recommendations on the re-establishment of the uniform policy in that regard.

42. With regard to the estimate of staffing requirements in paragraph 13 of document A/C.5/45/60, the Advisory Committee felt that two Professional posts should be sufficient; it therefore recommended that provision for the P-2 post should not be included in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993.

43. Mr. GROSSMAN (United States of America) said that his delegation opposed the payment of emoluments to persons serving on United Nations bodies, as such service was in itself a sufficient honour and as those persons already received excessive per diem payments. The United States was also opposed in principle to the funding of treaty bodies from the regular budget and it would like an indication from the Secretariat as to whether States parties to the Convention could be expected to contribute to the financing of operations. He suggested that the Secretariat should give a rough estimate of what the Organization could expect in contributions from States, on the basis of the payment record of contributions to similar treaty bodies in the past.

44. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the Division was not at that stage in a position to provide even a very rough estimate. However, in the light of the request by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for a report on the methods of financing treaty bodies, with particular reference to the payment of emoluments, his Division would endeavour to produce an approximate figure at the earliest possible opportunity, and he hoped therefore that it would not be necessary to postpone the Committee's decision on the matter.

45. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to inform the General Assembly that, if it adopted draft decision A/C.3/45/L.62, no additional appropriation would be required for the biennium 1990-1991 and that the additional requirements for 1992-1993, as indicated in paragraph 16 of document A/C.5/45/60, would be considered in the context of the programme budget proposals for the biennium 1992-1993.

46. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 12 (A/C.5/45/61)

47. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), orally presenting the report of the Advisory Committee, said that the Advisory Committee noted that under the terms of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 the General Assembly would, inter alia, decide to convene a World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 and to establish a Preparatory Committee for the Conference, which would hold a five-day session in Geneva in September 1991. The Advisory Committee also took note of paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, which it understood as meaning that the resources to be proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 1992-1993 for the ongoing programme of work on human rights, would not be compromised by the activities now called for in respect of the Conference and its Preparatory Committee. However, the Advisory Committee noted that paragraph 7 of the draft resolution contained a number of technically incorrect statements. The Advisory Committee was becoming increasingly concerned over the growing tendency of other intergovernmental committees to get involved in administrative and budgetary matters that were within the competence of the Fifth Committee. If that tendency was not checked, the budgetary process might become quite muddled. It was therefore essential for Member States to ensure closer co-ordination among their representatives in different legislative forums.

(Mr. Mselle)

48. The cost of holding the meetings of the Preparatory Committee in September 1991 was estimated at $369,400, all of which related to conference-servicing costs. For the reason provided in paragraph 6 of his statement (A/C.5/45/61), the Secretary-General estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution.

49. In paragraph 7 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicated that he would be in a better position to ascertain the additional requirements that would arise in the biennium 1992-1993 after the decisions to be made by the Preparatory Committee at its first session in September 1991. However, he was of the view that it would be necessary to strengthen not only the Centre for Human Rights, but also to provide additional resources for the Department of Public Information. He therefore indicated, in paragraph 8 of his statement, that while he did not wish to prejudge the outcome of the first session of the Preparatory Committee, nor to establish a predetermined target for or to limit the level of resources for the Conference and its preparatory process, it would be his intention to include in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, an amount of $1.5 million to provide for such requirements as would arise out of the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

50. Notwithstanding the difficulty of estimating the additional requirements that would arise in the biennium 1992-1993 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution, the Advisory Committee agreed with the Secretary-General that he should include provision in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 in that regard. However, it saw no reason to specify the amount to be included at the current stage. It would examine proposals that the Secretary-General might make in the context of its examination of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

51. Mr. BAZAN (Chile), speaking as the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, said that paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A specified that all proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the General Assembly must be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications were being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

52. In accordance with the procedures of the Committee on Conferences, members had been informed that under draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1, paragraph 6, the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights would hold a five-day session in Geneva in September 1991. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.5/45/61), the decision to hold a meeting in September 1991, as proposed, would constitute an exception to paragraph 6 of section I of General Assembly resolution 40/243, whereby the Assembly reaffirmed its instruction to all its subsidiary organs to complete their reports for the following session of the Assembly no later than 1 September. On the basis of the information provided to the Committee on Conferences, there had been no objections to making such an exception.

/...

53. Mr. KARBUCZKY (Hungary) requested clarification of how the figure of $1.5 million referred to in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications had been arrived at.

54. Mr. Y. K. GUPTA (India) said that he shared the concern expressed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee at the growing tendency of other committees to get involved in matters that were within the competence of the Fifth Committee. For example, paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1, constituted a violation of budgetary norms. The sponsors of such resolutions in the other Main Committees should leave the adoption of decisions on such matters to the appropriate bodies and must be informed of the budgetary implications of the resolutions in question.

55. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said that he shared the view expressed by the representative of India on paragraph 7 of the draft resolution. It was not clear how the Secretariat intended to finance the activities in question. An attempt was obviously being made, for the sake of convenience, to use other committees for adopting decisions that would challenge the new budgetary process adopted in resolution 41/213. He would therefore appreciate further clarification in that connection. Moreover, with regard to the sum of $1.5 million for financing the preparatory process for the Conference, he would appreciate it if the Secretariat provided a breakdown of that figure, in order to show how it had been arrived at. It was not clear at the current stage whether in proposing the inclusion of a provision of $1.5 million in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 the Secretariat was in essence trying to prejudge subsequent discussions in the Fifth Committee, not to mention discussions in the Advisory Committee and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in 1991.

56. With regard to paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, in which the General Assembly would decide that the Preparatory Committee, at its first session, should elect a five-member bureau, it was clear that that was not a serious proposal, to say the least.

57. Lastly, he wished to know whether as a matter of principle the Secretariat made an effort to provide advice to Main Committees before they adopted decisions likely to have financial implications. If the Secretariat had indeed provided appropriate advice before the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1, it was perhaps time for the General Assembly to consider how useful the Fifth Committee in fact was.

58. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that he, too, was concerned about paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1. He was, for example, not aware that the Committee had adopted a decision on "the overall level of resources". The subsidiary organ of the General Assembly that had initiated action on the draft resolution under consideration was violating a cardinal rule of the General Assembly on programme planning that specified that every subsidiary organ should deal only with its own programmes and should endeavour not to go beyond its area of competence. As the representative of Uganda had pointed out, it was important for the Secretariat to draw the attention of subsidiary organs of the General Assembly to the programme budget implications of their draft resolutions.

/...

59. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the statement made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee regarding the treatment of budgetary issues in the substantive committees of the General Assembly. While his delegation would agree that better co-ordination would help, it recognized from its own experience that there were limits to what delegations could reasonably be expected to accomplish. Delegations' efforts, would of course, be aided by better co-operation from the Secretariat in the provision of adequate budgetary information to the Main Committees during the consultation process. Perhaps the Advisory Committee could consult with the Secretariat on the matter in the course of 1991, in order to find ways of improving the provision of budgetary information to the Main Committees.

60. The United States hoped that at the following session of the General Assembly the Secretary-General would provide very detailed information both to the Assembly and to the Advisory Committee on the specific use that was to be made of the funds proposed for the World Conference on Human Rights.

61. His delegation endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Uganda concerning the continued relevance and utility of the Fifth Committee. The United States recognized that Uganda was voicing valid concerns. Over the years, the United States had had some concerns relating to decisions adopted by the Main Committees, one principal concern having been that the Main Committees adopted decisions without any regard to the overall level of spending by the Organization, on the assumption that the Fifth Committee would merely rubber-stamp the decisions in question. Perhaps in the future delegations could work together with a view to ensuring that budgetary issues were given proper consideration by the Main Committees.

62. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that his delegation supported the request made by Hungary for clarification of how the sum of $1.5 million had been arrived at. The Secretary-General's statement seemed very reasonable. If the figure in question was really a reasonable estimate of what was going to be required, the Committee should take note of it as early as possible.

63. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budgeting Division), responding to points raised by delegations, said that the Secretariat did not have specific information at its disposal at the current stage concerning the proposed Conference. Moreover, account must be taken of the fact that the Secretary-General had to draw up the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 by the end of January 1991 at the latest. In those circumstances, the Secretary-General had decided that it would be wise to indicate his intention to include, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, a provision of $1.5 million to cover such requirements as would arise out of the first session of the Preparatory Committee. It would thus be possible to avoid the situation that had arisen in connection with the Conference on Environment and Development. The Secretariat had arrived at the specific sum of $1.5 million on the basis of past experience. In other words, the amount of $1.5 million represented an educated guess, which reflected the fact that the Secretariat did not have precise data available. If

(Mr. Baudot)

the level of resources actually required proved to be either higher or lower than $1.5 million, that fact would have to be taken into account in the relevant documents submitted to the General Assembly in the future.

64. He agreed with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that the wording of paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 posed considerable technical problems and was one example of the incorrect use of budgetary and programming language by other Main Committees. It would be useful if the Secretariat would issue instructions for other Main Committees on the drafting of provisions regarding programme budget implications. Such technical problems were exacerbated by the large volume of draft resolutions and by the fact that the new budgetary process was still in the initial phase. The report to be submitted to the General Assembly the following year on the utilization of the contingency fund and on programme budget implications should be clearer on that point. Moreover, the limited amount of time available for the preparation of programme budget implications and their presentation to other Main Committees increased the difficulty of drafting them in a satisfactory way.

65. As to the amount of $1.5 million to be included in the 1992-1993 programme budget, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had agreed with the Secretary-General on the necessity of including an estimate in the 1992-1993 budget proposal, but had seen no reason to specify any amount at the current stage. Therefore, if the Fifth Committee accepted the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, it would not be required to endorse a specific figure. When the Fifth Committee considered the budget outline, it would do so on the basis of the Secretary-General's proposals and of previous decisions having financial implications for 1992-1993. If the Committee agreed that the Secretary-General should include an unspecified sum in the proposed budget for 1992-1993, it could decide whether or not to include the actual amount proposed by the Secretary-General when it considered the budget outline.

66. Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium) said that the language of paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 raised procedural and budgetary problems. He supported the representative of Canada in urging the Fifth Committee to decide immediately on the programme budget implications of the World Conference on Human Rights, to which his delegation attached great importance.

67. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) endorsed the comments made by other delegations on the budgetary process and on the inappropriateness of the language in the Third Committee's draft resolution. Moreover, he noted that the terms of paragraph 8 of document A/C.5/45/61 presented a procedural problem. He questioned whether it was appropriate for the Fifth Committee to approve the sum of $1.5 million for a specific section of the 1992-1993 budget before it had seen or taken a decision on the overall budget outline for that biennium.

68. Mr. KARBUCZKY (Hungary) noted that since the Preparatory Committee would not decide on detailed arrangements for the Conference until September 1991, the Secretariat could not begin to assess the administrative and budgetary implications until October or November 1991, when it would be too late to include a specific figure in the budget outline for 1992-1993. He asked for the views of the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division on that process and on when the Fifth Committee could expect to have a final figure as a basis for its deliberations.

69. Mr. WU Gang (China) noted that, while the Preparatory Committee for the Conference would meet in 1991, the regional preparatory committees would not meet until 1992. He wished to know whether the proposed amount of $1.5 million would include the cost of the regional preparatory committees, and if not, whether the Secretary-General would submit a new statement of programme budget implications to the Fifth Committee which took such regional expenses into account.

70. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that the desire for consensus, as well as inadequate advice from the Secretariat, had led some Main Committees to adopt paragraphs like those found in draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1. He noted that the figure of $1.5 million would probably be reproduced in the programme budget, and hoped that the Fifth Committee would be provided with precise programme budget implications on the matter by its next session, following the meeting of the Preparatory Committee in September 1991. The Advisory Committee could then study the figure in September or October 1991. He hoped that the Fifth Committee would take a decision on the programme budget implications in accordance with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

71. Ms. SHITAKHA (Kenya) said that her delegation joined the delegations of Uganda, Ghana and Japan in expressing concern over paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, which was technically incorrect. If the Committee was to take a decision on the programme budget implications, it must have a clear understanding of the intent of the paragraph. She wished to know precisely where the funds for the preparatory process and the Conference itself would come from and whether the "overall level of resources" mentioned in the draft resolution was a ceiling or a rough estimate. She supported the statement of the representative of Japan that the Fifth Committee was not currently in a position to take a decision on the matter, since it had not even taken a decision on the budget outline for the following biennium.

72. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) said that the representative of Hungary had made an important point in noting that if the Fifth Committee awaited the results of the meeting of the Preparatory Committee in September 1991, it would not have time to consider the figure to be included in the 1992-1993 budget. In addition, in paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, Governments were requested to submit recommendations on the Conference to the Preparatory Committee. However, such recommendations could not be included in the programme budget for 1992-1993. In view of those considerations, she supported the Secretary-General's proposal to include the figure of $1.5 million in the programme budget for 1992-1993.

73. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said that there was a clear consensus in the Fifth Committee that paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 was technically incorrect. The paragraph was irregular as well and, in its report to the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee should clearly state that view. With regard to the programme budget implications contained in document A/C.5/45/61, the statement in paragraph 9 that no additional appropriations would be required for 1990-1991 was not properly reflected in paragraph 8, in which suggestions were made regarding, *inter alia*, the strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights. If those suggestions were to be implemented in 1991, the statement in paragraph 9 would be incorrect. He also requested confirmation that the activities mentioned in paragraph 8 regarding additional resources for travel and consultants and for the Department of Public Information would not entail additional appropriations in 1991. If paragraph 7 of the draft resolution and paragraph 9 of the programme budget implications were adopted as they were currently formulated, it was clear that an additional amount of $1.5 million would have to be charged to the regular budget, but that such an amount should not affect section 23 of the budget. It would be helpful if the Secretary-General would specify how the amount of $1.5 million was to be raised.

74. Mr. CONMY (Ireland) said that there were two separate issues before the Committee. According to paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications, the task of the Fifth Committee was to inform the General Assembly that the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 would require no additional appropriations for 1990-1991. Since the Secretariat had to include a mention of additional requirements in the budget outline for 1992-1993, it had given a figure of $1.5 million. As the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had maintained, it was inappropriate for the Fifth Committee to approve a specific figure for that outline at the current stage. The implications of the draft resolution for the outline were a separate issue.

75. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that he supported the position of the representatives of Japan and Kenya with regard to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution for the biennium 1992-1993. No amount should be included in the budget outline and the Conference should be financed by the contingency fund.

76. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that if the Fifth Committee approved the Secretary-General's estimate of programme budget implications in the light of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, no additional appropriations would be required for 1991 in connection with the Conference and the suggestions contained in paragraph 8 of document A/C.5/45/61 would not be implemented in 1991. In addition, the Secretary-General would be authorized to include in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 the resources related to preparations for the Conference. The Secretary-General would propose a specific sum for the preparations for the Conference in the budget estimates for 1992-1993.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
43rd meeting
held on
Tuesday, 11 December 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 134: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 122: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 12 (continued)

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/45/SR.43
14 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 134: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (*continued*) (A/45/493 and Add.1, A/45/502, A/45/582, A/45/801)

1. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that the viability of the peace-keeping work of the United Nations was undermined by the inadequate reimbursement of troop-contributing countries and by erratic, inefficient and unreliable funding of peace-keeping operations. The statement made by the United States delegation at the preceding meeting had been disappointing and it was to be hoped that that delegation would reconsider its position on the matter. The substantial and long-standing burden on troop-contributing countries had been made even heavier by the failure of some Member States to honour their commitments to peace-keeping operations. An adequate rate of reimbursement for troop contributors was therefore essential. As an active participant in virtually all of the peace-keeping operations over the years, Canada was strongly committed to collective peace efforts and supported the updating of rates of reimbursement and full funding of all peace-keeping operations.

2. In document A/45/582, the Advisory Committee noted that the median absorption factor, representing the cost burden borne by troop-contributing countries, had increased to 58.5 per cent. The additional costs borne by troop-contributing countries over and above their assessments for peace-keeping operations must be regarded as a large voluntary contribution by those countries. Moreover, the report indicated an increase of 7.4 per cent in the average cost per person per month between 1984 and 1988; the increase over the 10 years since the establishment of the reimbursement rates was much greater. Even in 1980, the level of the reimbursement rates had required considerable absorption of costs by troop-contributing countries, and substantial world-wide inflation had occurred since that time. For those reasons, his delegation felt that the Advisory Committee's recommended increase of 4 per cent was inadequate and that the increase should be at a rate of at least 7.4 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 11 of document A/45/582. Since even a 7.4 per cent increase would not redress existing inequities, his delegation proposed that another review of the rates should be conducted for 1989 instead of for 1990.

3. The other key factor in ensuring continued support for peace-keeping operations was full United Nations funding of all such operations. In the Security Council, his delegation intended to address the long-standing contradiction in the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to correct the inadequacies and unfairness of the current arrangement. His delegation reaffirmed its strong commitment to United Nations peace-keeping operations and urged other Member States to do likewise.

4. Mr. TANG Guangting (China) said that recent rapid changes in the international situation had enabled the United Nations to play an increasingly important role in mediating and alleviating conflicts through peace-keeping operations. His delegation attached great importance to such operations as an effective means of

safeguarding world peace and security, and noted with concern that the amounts allocated for the ever-increasing needs of peace-keeping operations had reached the level of the Organization's regular budget. It was therefore essential to address questions regarding the resources, administration and efficiency of those operations.

5. Because it had primary responsibility for the maintenance of world peace and security, the Security Council should take clear decisions on the scale and duration of each peace-keeping operation, as well as on the number of military personnel involved. In addition, the role of the Advisory Committee should be strengthened to ensure strict control over the administrative and financial aspects of such operations. Although peace-keeping operations were effective in facilitating the settlement of disputes, they were no substitute for just and final solutions to conflicts and should not be unduly prolonged. In that regard, the successful performance of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) should serve as an example for future peace-keeping operations.

6. The establishment of a support account for peace-keeping operations to meet the costs of overload posts, as proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/45/493, would help meet the needs arising from the additional work-load associated with the pre-implementation phase of prospective operations by providing flexibility in the use of resources, and would be an obvious improvement over the previous ad hoc arrangements. His delegation supported the proposed method and ratio for financing the support account, as well as the Advisory Committee's view that the method and ratio must be constantly reviewed and that the support account should not be used solely for the purpose of financing new posts.

7. During the previous session, the Secretary-General had first proposed the establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items for peace-keeping operations to meet the requirements of the start-up phase, as well as an increase of the Working Capital Fund to cover start-up costs. If Member States made their contributions on time and paid up their arrears to restore the Working Capital Fund to its original level of $100 million, the problem of start-up costs would be solved easily. While the establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items was a good idea, it required further development; for example, expenses associated with the turnover, maintenance and management of stock items should be taken into account. For the time being, his delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee on the formation of a reserve stock with the residual equipment and the unencumbered cash balance from UNTAG, in addition to equipment purchased with available voluntary contributions.

8. The experience of UNTAG had proved the feasibility of using civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations. Although the reimbursement rate for military personnel could also apply to civilian personnel, his delegation hoped that, whenever possible, Member States would contribute civilian personnel for such operations on a non-reimbursable basis. It also hoped that more consideration would be given to securing civilian personnel provided by Governments, as opposed to Secretariat staff, in order to economize resources. With regard to

(Mr. Tang Guangting, China)

reimbursement rates for troop-contributing countries, his delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendation to increase the rate by 4 per cent.

9. Action was also required on other questions relating to peace-keeping operations, such as status-of-forces agreements and effective co-ordination among different parts of the Secretariat. He hoped that the model status-of-forces agreement which had been submitted to the Special Political Committee would be useful in the context of future peace-keeping operations and that co-ordination within the Secretariat would be strengthened to enhance efficiency. The obligation of all Member States to help fund peace-keeping operations should be emphasized, and other forms of financing, such as voluntary contributions from various sources, should be encouraged.

10. Mr. DJANKLA (Togo) said that every effort should be made to preserve and strengthen Member States' renewed confidence in the Organization's capacity to promote international peace and security. His delegation welcomed the use of civilian personnel provided by Governments or civilian employees of commercial contractors in peace-keeping operations as a means of increasing the Organization's potential for action, broadening the involvement of Member States in matters of collective security and increasing awareness of peace-keeping issues among the peoples of the world. Such participation should be encouraged through the establishment of a fair rate of reimbursement for Governments which provided military personnel. His delegation therefore supported the Advisory Committee's proposal to increase the reimbursement rate by 4 per cent, as well as the payment of the basic salary and allowances of civilian personnel by the contributing Governments on a non-reimbursable basis.

11. The proposed establishment of a support account for peace-keeping operations would provide a single mechanism for the distribution of costs among the various peace-keeping operations and would ensure the timely launching of the growing number of new operations. However, the method of financing recommended in the Secretary-General's report (A/45/493) should be studied further in order to guarantee the long-term effectiveness of the account. The support account should not be considered a means of financing additional posts. The proposed establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items was also a welcome initiative, since it would provide for the rapid implementation of new operations while reducing start-up costs. However, the use of a reserve stock of rations should be strictly monitored. Finally, the Secretary-General's role should be strengthened in order to avoid a paralysing rigidity in the management of peace-keeping matters and to ensure that decisions were taken in the light of a whole range of operational, political, financial and security considerations.

12. Mr. CONMY (Ireland) said that the proposed establishment of a support account for overload posts would be a practical and overdue improvement, and fully supported the proposal and the associated procedures suggested by the Advisory Committee. He also welcomed the proposal to establish a reserve stock of equipment, although he regretted that the Secretary-General's report did not fully address the funding of the reserve stock or the relationship between the proposal

/...

(Mr. Conmy, Ireland)

and the decisions taken the previous year on the UNTAG reserve equipment. The Advisory Committee's proposed arrangement for crediting the UNTAG account when drawing on its reserve equipment was in fact a purchase and would not lead to the existence of a reserve on an ongoing basis.

13. The system of paying standard rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries demonstrated the international character of peace-keeping operations and the collective responsibility of Member States. The additional costs, or absorption factor, incurred by troop contributors should be recognized as an additional voluntary contribution to such operations. The late payment or non-payment of mandatory assessed contributions by some Member States placed an increased burden on troop-contributing countries by impairing the Organization's ability to pay the standard rates of reimbursement; according to the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/45/17), unpaid debts to troop-contributing countries currently amounted to $272 million. That situation was unacceptable, and the announced intention of some countries to pay off their arrears was a welcome but long overdue development.

14. Because ten years had passed since the establishment of the current reimbursement rates and because costs for troop contributors had risen by an average of 7.4 per cent over a period of only four years, the Advisory Committee's recommendation to increase the rates by 4 per cent was insufficient, since it appeared to be based on the unjustified assumption that the average absorption factor prevailing in 1980 should be applied to the 7.4 per cent average increase in costs between 1984 and 1988. His delegation felt that an increase of even 7.4 per cent would be insufficient. It strongly agreed with the Advisory Committee that the General Assembly should increase the standard rates at the current session.

15. Mr. SEZAKI (Japan) said that the United Nations had yet to arrive at fundamental solutions to many issues relating to peace-keeping operations, such as economies of scale, administrative and budgetary co-ordination among various operations, financing of the start-up stage, the establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supplies, the support account and the rates of reimbursement to troop contributors.

16. His country wished to contribute to the achievement of a consensus in the Fifth Committee, and would therefore extend its fullest support to the United Nations in its efforts to solve regional conflicts. Japan had made voluntary contributions to the start-up costs of peace-keeping operations and had provided civilian personnel for the election observer teams in Namibia and Nicaragua. His Government was also considering enacting new legislation in order to ensure co-operation on a continuous rather than an *ad hoc* basis.

17. Since no adjustments had been made over the past decade in the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing States despite world-wide inflation, a more rational and transparent system for adjusting the rates should be established, taking into account the views expressed in document A/45/801.

/...

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

18. He noted with satisfaction that the support account for peace-keeping operations would soon become operational, and endorsed the views of the Advisory Committee in that regard, particularly its reservations concerning the application of an across-the-board percentage to every peace-keeping operation. He also noted that the essential purpose of the account was to ensure the availability of adequate staff resources for the start-up activities of new peace-keeping operations, including good offices.

19. His delegation welcomed the proposal to establish a reserve stock of equipment and supplies and agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the residual stocks of UNTAG and other peace-keeping operations should be fully utilized in establishing the reserve. It was clear that the UNTAG equipment and supplies included a wide variety of items which must be carefully inventoried. It was necessary to identify the requirements which could not be met from UNTAG and other operations, and then to inform Governments of those needs so that they could be met through voluntary contributions.

20. With regard to the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations, he endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 35 of document A/45/801. Since the Secretary-General had defined the status and functions of civilian personnel to be provided by States, there was a sufficient basis for the Secretary-General to prepare the standard administrative procedures required by the General Assembly. Such procedures would make possible a wider participation in peace-keeping operations by States which were not in a position to provide military contingents to the United Nations.

21. He regretted that the issue of start-up financing had not been dealt with as such. The need to ensure timely financing of peace-keeping operations in the initial stage had inadvertently been merged with the issue of the general financial crisis of the Organization. In view of the current prospects for the payment of outstanding contributions, efforts should be made to find a concrete solution which met the specific requirements of peace-keeping operations in the initial stage. Every alternative solution should be explored, including the use of voluntary cash grants or advances.

22. It was to be hoped that in the planning and management of future peace-keeping operations, the Secretariat would bear in mind the following requirements of Member States. First, in order for States to have confidence in the budget estimates, there was a need for greater transparency, which could be achieved through more realistic and precise cost projections. Secondly, States should be encouraged to provide personnel, material and technical resources, and services. Thirdly, briefings and exchanges of views between the Secretariat and interested Member States should be organized from the planning stage onwards, in order to ensure substantial co-operation by the Governments concerned in the financing and management of new operations.

/...

23. Ms. MUSTONEN (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, welcomed the increase in the number of troop contributors from 23 in 1988 to 46 currently. The increasing number and complexity of peace-keeping operations had led to a substantial rise in their overall costs, which underscored the importance of a sound financial basis for peace-keeping activities. Financing must be based on the principle of collective responsibility, which meant that the costs of the operations should be regarded as expenses of the Organization, to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter.

24. While she welcomed the role of voluntary contributions in meeting the large overall expenditures of peace-keeping operations, she believed that assessed contributions must be the financial basis of those operations. She therefore regarded as an anomaly the fact that UNFICYP continued to be funded from voluntary contributions and supported all efforts to change the financing system for that operation.

25. It was crucially important for Member States to pay their contributions in full and on time. Troop-contributing countries should be guaranteed that the United Nations would honour its obligations to them by making adequate and timely reimbursements. She noted with concern that the amount of outstanding contributions for the ongoing operations was nearly $400 million. That debt undermined the Organization's capacity to carry out its peace-keeping activities and also put an additional burden on the troop contributors. Because of those unpaid contributions, the United Nations currently owed $272 million to the troop-contributing countries - one third of which was owed to the Nordic countries, excluding the $130 million which those countries were owed for the UNFICYP operation.

26. With regard to the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing States, there was a need for a substantial increase of more than 4 per cent, as proposed by ACABQ. It should also be noted that for most of the troop-contributing States, the costs not covered by the standard reimbursement rates had increased. In the case of the Nordic countries, that meant that even if they had been fully reimbursed by the United Nations, their Governments would still have absorbed about half of the overall costs for the troops, or about $400 million. In order for the reimbursement system to remain credible, the rates must be increased.

27. With regard to the question of efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the implementation of peace-keeping activities, one of the main issues concerned the start-up phase of peace-keeping operations. She welcomed the Secretary-General's proposals concerning a support account and a reserve stock of equipment and supplies, both of which could greatly facilitate the start-up phase of a new operation.

28. She supported the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the purpose, financing and level of the proposed account. She also agreed that 8.5 per cent should be the average ratio of costs to be applied in calculating the amounts to be included in each of the budgets of peace-keeping operations.

/...

(Ms. Mustonen, Finland)

29. She found convincing the justification given by the Secretary-General for establishing the reserve stock of equipment and supplies and concurred with the comments made by ACABQ concerning the utilization of UNTAG equipment. With regard to the financing of the proposed reserve stock, the Nordic countries were ready to consider all the alternatives proposed by the Secretary-General.

30. With regard to start-up financing for peace-keeping operations, as pointed out by ACABQ, the existing Working Capital Fund had proved to be too small for the increased level of activities. A new arrangement must be established in order to ensure a financially sound and cost-effective start-up phase for new operations. While supporting the Secretary-General's proposal to increase the Working Capital Fund, she noted that the financing of such a Fund should be the collective responsibility of all Member States.

31. The Nordic countries endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations, while concurring with the representative of New Zealand that the use of civilians should not be at the expense of military personnel.

32. In considering the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the financing and management of United Nations peace-keeping activities, it should be borne in mind that the responsibility for peace-keeping operations was vested in the Secretary-General and that the operations were under the authority of the Security Council.

33. Mr. KERSTEIN (Yugoslavia) said that he had taken note of the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the support account for peace-keeping operations. With regard to the application of an average ratio of 8.5 per cent in calculating the amounts to be included in each of the budgets of peace-keeping operations, he shared the Advisory Committee's reservations concerning across-the-board percentages, which might not reflect the requirements of current or future peace-keeping operations. It was his understanding that the proposed percentage would be subject to review and adjustment, if necessary, after the first two years of its application. He was also confident that the criteria for the creation of all posts chargeable to the support account, as outlined in paragraph 16 of document A/45/493, would be fully observed.

34. With regard to the proposed reserve stock of equipment and supplies, he shared the view of ACABQ that its establishment might be beneficial, and that in many instances, its requirements could be met from the UNTAG reserve. He also agreed, however, that the Secretary-General should be urged to identify all possibilities for acquiring the necessary equipment through voluntary contributions and to report on the issue at the Advisory Committee's spring 1991 session.

35. The use of civilian personnel for peace-keeping operations was an interesting but complex question. Peace-keeping operations must be run according to United Nations rules under a single command structure. It was important, therefore, that Governments which were considering providing civilian personnel for peace-keeping operations should agree with the Secretariat on the political and administrative

/...

implications of such participation. In view of the complexity of the arrangements for paying civilian personnel and their impact on the overall budgets of peace-keeping operations, he concurred with the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the policy and criteria of payment to civilian personnel and reimbursement of contributing countries should be kept under review. The Advisory Committee's views concerning the need to establish standard administrative procedures governing the provision of civilian personnel remained fully valid.

36. With regard to the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing States, he could not understand why no increase had been proposed by the Secretary-General, and welcomed the Advisory Committee's recommendation of a 4 per cent increase, on the understanding that the rates would be kept under review.

37. Mr. OSELLA (Argentina) said that Argentina's commitment to peace-keeping operations was demonstrated by its contribution of troop contingents over the previous decades. His delegation believed that, when creating or extending an operation, the Security Council should set specific objectives for each mandate period, thereby enhancing the chances of the operation's success and dispelling the negative psychological impression which the automatic renewal of mandates produced on the parties to the conflict and the peace-keeping personnel as well. In the interests of efficiency, there should be a greater exchange of information on peace-keeping operations and a plan of appropriate co-ordination for decision-making, through more frequent and wide-ranging meetings between countries contributing troops or civilian personnel and the appropriate units of the Secretariat.

38. On the review of rates of reimbursement in document A/45/582, Argentina believed that the underlying principle should be equal payment to all troop-contributing countries, since the current system of uniform rates did not fully compensate all Governments for the expenditure they incurred in providing troops. The new rates should take into account the depreciation of the United States dollar and should be sensitive to the varying costs of training and maintaining military personnel in the countries concerned.

39. The proposed support account should be used to meet requirements arising in the pre-implementation stage of possible peace-keeping operations not provided for in the programme budget and should not be viewed as a kind of reserve fund for financing additional posts related to peace-keeping operations. The proposal had the merit of affording the Secretary-General needed flexibility in allocating resources and would promote a global approach to peace-keeping. The Secretariat should give more detailed information about how the account was to be used for operations financed from special accounts and for those financed with voluntary funds.

40. The establishment of a reserve stock would enable the Organization to take prompt action once a new operation had been authorized by the Security Council. The value and efficiency of the stock would be enhanced if the United Nations standardized its equipment, and the stock should not be confined to new articles as

/...

(Mr. Osella, Argentina)

the recycling of used materials would help reduce overall costs. Argentina agreed that the establishment of the reserve stock should be financed from the uncommitted balance remaining in the UNTAG account. The maintenance costs could only be dealt with, however, once a break-down of rental, transport, maintenance and administration expenses had been made.

41. Turning to the question of the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations (A/45/502), he agreed that the political direction and administration of peace-keeping operations should be the responsibility of United Nations officials. Governments could contribute civilian personnel in various technical areas. In view of the increasing numbers of civilian personnel provided by Governments for peace-keeping operations, Argentina supported the idea of preparing an inventory of human resource requirements for peace-keeping operations, as it would assist States which did not contribute troops to become usefully involved. Civilian personnel provided by Governments would have no contractual relationship with the Organization but rather would have the status of experts on mission for the United Nations as defined in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. The criteria for their employment and for the reimbursement to personnel-contributing countries should be kept under constant review.

42. Drawing attention to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII), which recognized the differing economic capacity of contributing countries, he stressed the need for the United Nations to remain sensitive to the changing world situation and to apportion the costs of its peace-keeping operations in an equitable manner among Member States.

43. Mr. SAVUA (Fiji) said that the changing power structure of the post-cold war world had rendered particularly timely the review of peace-keeping operations set in motion by the General Assembly at its forty-third session and had placed an increased obligation on all Member States to pay their financial assessments in full and on time. While Fiji accepted the Secretary-General's decision not to be deterred by the Organization's financial situation from setting up new peace-keeping operations, it stressed that careful consideration should also be given to the ability of personnel-contributing countries to sustain their continued involvement, which depended heavily on the prompt and full payment of assessments.

44. His delegation was disturbed by the retention of the 1980 rate of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, despite international inflation of over 100 per cent. While Fiji welcomed the 4 per cent increase recommended by the Secretary-General in paragraph 13 of his report (A/45/582), it believed that an increase of at least 10 per cent would be more fair.

45. His delegation supported the proposal to establish a reserve stock of equipment to alleviate start-up problems, but warned that the dependence of such a venture on assessed contributions could be detrimental. The Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 28 of its report (A/45/801) to fund the stock from the cash balance in the UNTAG account would only solve the problem of start-up costs and could make the reserve stock unduly expensive and burdensome to maintain.

/...

(Mr. Savua, Fiji)

46. His delegation believed that the proposed support account for peace-keeping operations would provide much needed flexibility in planning and implementing new peace-keeping operations and would help finance professional expertise in managerial, legal, technical and administrative areas.

47. Mr. KIRUTTINAN (India) said, with reference to paragraph 4 of the Advisory Committee's report on administrative and budgetary aspects of peace-keeping operations (A/45/801), that the costs sustained by the troop contributors could be more realistically assessed by taking into account costs from a larger number of troop contributors over a longer period of time. For immediate purposes, however, India believed that the Committee should take a decision on the basis of the Secretary-General's report (A/45/582). In view of the increases in the average cost per person per month detailed in annex V to that report, the increase suggested in paragraph 13 of 4 per cent in the reimbursement rates should be approved by the General Assembly. Efforts should be made to persuade more Member States, particularly other developing countries with the necessary capacities, to contribute troops.

48. With regard to the question of overload posts outlined in paragraphs 8 and 13 of the Secretary-General's report on the support account for peace-keeping operations (A/45/493), his delegation believed that the account should comprise a mix of permanent and temporary posts in accordance with the changing requirements of the Organization and that the proposed average ratio to be applied in financing the account should be kept under review in the light of developments in the various peace-keeping operations.

49. Turning to the Secretary-General's report on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items for United Nations peace-keeping activities (A/45/493/Add.1), he said that the concept of a reserve stock should be further examined by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee in the context of the predictability and size of peace-keeping operations. The findings of such an examination would help Member States decide whether to allocate the required resources to the Secretary-General. India welcomed the start made in that regard with the centralized stockpiling of the residual equipment and supplies from the UNTAG operation.

50. While India agreed with the Secretary-General's conclusion, expressed in his report on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations (A/45/502), that the political direction and administration of peace-keeping operations must be performed by United Nations staff members, it supported the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 33 of its report (A/45/801) that the Secretary-General should request Member States to provide additional civilian personnel as the diversion of large numbers of United Nations personnel from existing jobs to peace-keeping functions could adversely affect the delivery of other programmes. In addition, the borrowing of additional civilian personnel from Member States would be cost-efficient.

/...

(Mr. Kiruttinan, India)

51. The principle of recruitment on the basis of wide geographical distribution should also be followed, to ensure that developing countries with considerable expertise in the area were properly represented, and should also be applied in future recruitment for Field Service posts. India supported the Secretary-General's observations in paragraph 14 of his report regarding the reimbursement of costs for civilian personnel, for the developing countries would otherwise be hard put to participate in United Nations peace-keeping operations.

52. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation was prepared to consider Canada's appeal for relief from the unfair burden that country shouldered as a result of its voluntary decision to contribute troops to United Nations peace-keeping operations. The United States Government's flexibility was limited, however, by the substantial burdens placed upon the American people by United States international defence commitments over nearly 50 years. He hoped that the emerging political order might ultimately enable the United States to give active support to the position advocated by Canada.

AGENDA ITEM 122: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (continued) (A/45/798)

53. Mr. ANNAN (Controller) said that the question of support costs merited particular attention by the Committee. Referring to paragraph 3 of the Advisory Committee's report on the matter (A/45/798) and to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Governing Council decision 90/26, which required the Administrator of the UNDP to report back to the Governing Council with specific proposals after close consultations with the agencies of the United Nations system, he noted that those consultations were in progress and agreements were yet to be reached on a number of key issues. Although specific areas still required clarification, it was already obvious that the decision had broad programmatic, financial and other implications for all the affected units of the United Nations Secretariat. He noted that any revision of the system of reimbursement of support costs, which had remained unaltered for ten years, would have to be approved by the General Assembly, for it alone had the power to determine the appropriate level of the subsidy from the regular budget of the United Nations in support of technical co-operation activities.

54. He pointed out that the term "Department of Technical Co-operation for Development", employed in decision 90/26, was understood by the Secretary-General to refer to all organizational units of the United Nations which implemented UNDP-funded technical co-operation activities. Those units were all part of the Secretariat of the United Nations and benefited from central executive management and central services. Governing Council decision 90/26 did allow initially for more flexible treatment of units of the Secretariat not included under the term in question.

/...

55. With regard to support cost arrangements for other extrabudgetary funds, he noted that the current uniform rate of 13 per cent of expenditures would continue to apply to all trust funds until a uniform system of cost measurement was adopted. The United Nations was co-operating with the Administrator of UNDP in making arrangements for an independent survey of the cost of certain services required for such a cost measurement system, and the General Assembly would be informed of the outcome of the review in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 12 (continued) (A/C.5/45/61)

56. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that he supported the position stated by Ireland at the previous meeting concerning the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 on the proposed World Conference on Human Rights. Also at the previous meeting, the United States delegation had suggested that the Conference should be funded from the contingency fund for the biennium 1992-1993. He wished to know whether that was the correct procedure.

57. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal) said that she was quite satisfied with the answers provided by the Secretariat at the previous meeting. With regard to the United States suggestion just referred to by Canada, as she saw it, the Committee was going to recommend to the General Assembly that there should be no additional appropriations for 1991; as far as the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 was concerned, the Committee was going to indicate that a sum of $1.5 million would be necessary and that that sum should be included in that budget.

58. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands) said that he supported both the statement just made by Portugal and the statement made by Morocco at the previous meeting.

59. Mr. Y. K. GUPTA (India) said that the decision to be adopted by the Committee on the matter under consideration should indicate that the resources requested for activities relating to the Conference should be provided in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211.

60. Mr. KALBITZER (Germany) said that he did not believe that the General Assembly could enter into a commitment at the current session concerning expenditures to be made in the forthcoming biennium. He would appreciate clarification in that connection. At the current session, the General Assembly could do no more than take note of the future expenditures.

61. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that in preparing document A/C.5/45/61 the Secretariat should not have continued beyond paragraph 6. Once draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 had been adopted by the General Assembly, provision must be made for the activities in question in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. It was not necessary for the Secretariat first of all to obtain authorization from the Committee in order to reflect the probable financial implications of a given General Assembly resolution in the budget. Moreover,

(Mr. Zahid, Morocco)

in 1991 the General Assembly would have to adopt a decision on such implications when it considered the proposed programme budget. Morocco therefore believed that there should not be any debate on additional expenditures in connection with draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1, particularly if there was agreement that no additional resources would be required for the biennium 1990-1991. The Committee should make a recommendation to that effect to the General Assembly. The financial implications of the activities resulting from the adoption of the draft resolution by the General Assembly must be reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, and the specific amount should be determined following the initial meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights in September 1991. At the current stage there was no need to bring up the issue of the contingency fund.

62. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon), referring to paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/45/61, said that he wished to know what would happen if the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1990-1991 was in fact not consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years, and additional resources would therefore be required as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution under consideration. It was not clear how the Secretariat would meet the cost of holding the Preparatory Committee's session in 1991 in such an event.

63. In paragraph 8 of document A/C.5/45/61, a provision of $1.5 million was proposed by the Secretary-General to cover such requirements as would arise out of the Preparatory Committee's first session. However, paragraph 8 must be considered in the light of paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1. The draft resolution had very serious implications, all of which must be taken into consideration before the Committee could adopt a decision on the draft.

64. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), responding to the points raised by the representative of Cameroon, said that the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications dealt with conference-servicing costs in the standard manner.

65. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) said that he wished to know, in the context of the last two sentences of paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/45/61, how the Secretariat was going to obtain the amount of $369,400, referred to in paragraph 4 of the same document.

66. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), responding to the comments made by the representative of Cameroon, suggested that, in the light of the discussion that had taken place in the Committee at the previous meeting, paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/45/61 should be ignored. Paragraph 6 of that document was essentially the same as the corresponding paragraph in any statement of programme budget implications. If $369,400 proved to be too low, the General Assembly would have to take an appropriate decision on the matter, just as it would in connection with such sums in any other statement of programme budget implications.

/...

67. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/61 and on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that should it adopt revised draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1, as orally revised, no additional appropriations would be required for 1990-1991, and that an indicative provision should be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to meet such additional requirements and would be considered by the General Assembly in the light of decisions to be made by the Preparatory Committee at its session in September 1991. He further suggested that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that it endorsed the comments of the Advisory Committee in respect of operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 and paragraph 2 (f) of document A/C.5/45/61.

68. After a discussion in which Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon), Mr. Y. K. GUPTA (India), Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) and Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) took part, Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee) said that the Fifth Committee might wish to consider adopting a three-part recommendation. First, it could inform the General Assembly that adoption of the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee would not entail additional appropriations for the biennium 1990-1991. Second, it could inform the Assembly that the estimate for the Preparatory Committee and for the Conference in 1992-1993 would be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. Third, the Committee could take note of the Advisory Committee's observations, if it so wished. However, his relevant statement would be issued as an official document of the General Assembly at a later stage, together with all his other oral statements.

69. Mr. CONMY (Ireland), Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) and Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) endorsed the suggestion just made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

70. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the suggestions just made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee regarding the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1.

71. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
44th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 12 December 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 129: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Integrated management information system project

Standards of accommodation for air travel

Construction of additional conference facilities at Addis Ababa and Bangkok

Functioning of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Economic Commission for Africa

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments

Developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights

---

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/45/SR.44
17 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

/...

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 129: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE (A/45/716 and A/45/832)

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (A/45/802 and A/45/832)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) drew attention to the observations and recommendations set out in section IV of the Advisory Committee's report (A/45/832). Paragraph 16 dealt with the amounts placed in the Suspense Account. To date $60.4 million had been placed in that Account. The financial situation of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was such that the Secretary-General was informing the General Assembly that Member States contributing troops to UNDOF were being reimbursed on a timely basis. As indicated in paragraph 16, after subtraction of the amount transferred to a special account, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/116 A, and after subtraction of outstanding assessed contributions as at 31 October 1990, there was a balance of $8 million. As indicated in paragraph 19, it was the Advisory Committee's intention to review the situation in 1990 with a view to making recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session as to the appropriate disposition of the balance at that time. In the mean time, the Advisory Committee was recommending that the surplus indicated by the Secretary-General as at 30 November 1990, namely $887,000 gross ($765,000 net) should not be placed in the Suspense Account but, rather, should be credited to Member States. The Advisory Committee was also recommending that a further sum of $2,017,408, representing the surplus balance in the UNDOF account as at 31 December 1989 should similarly be credited to Member States.

2. In paragraph 22, the Advisory Committee expressed its concern about the continued increase in civilian staff costs, which absorbed a growing portion of the total costs of UNDOF and UNIFIL. The Advisory Committee, which intended to monitor developments in that connection, trusted that the Secretariat would keep the situation under close review.

3. Paragraphs 24 to 26 contained a series of observations by the Advisory Committee concerning costs for premises/accommodation for UNDOF and UNIFIL and the effect of exchange rates on UNDOF and UNIFIL cost estimates. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should pursue his negotiations with the host countries concerned to obtain more preferential conditions for the construction and rental of premises and accommodation, as well as a more favourable exchange rate in respect of all the requirements of UNDOF and UNIFIL. Subject to the decision to be taken by the Security Council on the renewal of the UNDOF mandate after 31 May 1991, the Force's requirements for the period from 1 December 1990 to 30 November 1991 should not exceed $41,358,000 gross ($40,398,000 net). On that basis, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve commitment authority up to the level of $3,446,500 gross ($3,366,500 net) per month. Requirements for UNIFIL for the

/...

(Mr. Mselle)

period from 1 February 1991 to 31 January 1992 should not exceed $153,468,000 gross ($150,684,000 net). The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve commitment authority up to the level of $12.8 million gross ($12.6 million net) per month.

4. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation appreciated the additional information provided in the reports before the Committee. However, there could be greater clarity, particularly where the larger items of expenditure were concerned.

5. Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy) said that it was unfortunate that the effectiveness of UNIFIL was not recognized in the form of commensurate financial support.

6. Mr. CONMY (Ireland), supported by Mr. MORDACQ (France), said that the UNIFIL financial crisis was a matter of great concern. Member States must be reminded of their relevant obligations under the Charter.

7. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America), referring to paragraphs 44 (b) and 45 of the report of the Secretary-General in document A/45/802, requested clarification of the amount of $80,000 included in the cost estimates to cover postage of personal mail of military personnel to their home countries. He would also appreciate clarification of the situation regarding insurance coverage in the event of death or disability.

8. Mr. FORAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services), responding to the points raised by the representative of the United States, said that the payment of the cost of postage of personal mail of military personnel to their home countries was not new. The estimate in question was included now because the budget outline was more complete.

9. With regard to the provision of insurance coverage in the event of death or disability, peace-keeping troops remained part of their national military forces. In the case of death or disability, the families of military personnel were entitled to benefits on a national basis. The United Nations reimbursed Governments accordingly, and benefit levels therefore depended on the levels in the particular countries concerned.

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Integrated management information system project (A/C.5/45/20)

10. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/20.

11. Mr. LINDFORS (Sweden) noted with satisfaction that work on the user requirements analysis, logical design and hardware and software platforms for IMIS had been completed swiftly and in accordance with the plan presented in document A/C.5/44/8. His delegation noted in particular that the same importance had been

(Mr. Lindfors, Sweden)

accorded to activities for administrative processes financed from extrabudgetary resources as to regular budget activities, and also that peace-keeping operations had been included in the analysis. In that connection, his delegation wished to raise a point concerning the selection of the users who had been interviewed. It was important that not only finance and personnel officials should be involved; managers in substantive departments must also be given an opportunity to influence system design. His delegation would also be interested to know how control and audit aspects had been dealt with in the analysis.

12. As to project plans for the rest of 1990 and 1991, his delegation would have appreciated inclusion in the report of a timetable similar to the one submitted at the previous session. According to that timetable, the internal design stage had been scheduled to start in October. However, paragraph 15 of the current report seemed to indicate that the internal design stage would start later, when the consulting firm for the next stages of the project had been selected, in February or March 1991. His delegation would be interested to know whether its interpretation of that paragraph was correct and, if so, what that delay meant for the rest of the project. His delegation also wished to request the Secretariat to make a general assessment of the status of the project, in comparison with the plans specified in document A/C.5/44/8.

13. On the issue of a cost-benefit analysis for the project, paragraph 25 of document A/C.5/44/8 indicated that it had been anticipated that a cost-benefit analysis would be available in the second quarter of 1990. The current report contained a very detailed review of the benefits to be derived from IMIS. The list was impressive, and Sweden saw no reason to question it. His delegation noted, however, that there was no mention in the report of costs in connection with the development and implementation of the system. A cost-benefit analysis would also have offered an up-to-date estimate of costs. His delegation therefore wished to know whether the Secretariat could provide the Committee with such an estimate.

14. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands) said that the project was an ambitious one. His delegation noted that the human factor was not really dealt with in the report, which made only a brief reference to training, for example. Training was a decisive factor in such a project, which was not a purely technical operation. It was also important that technicians should not be the only staff involved and consulted.

15. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that the Secretary-General's report was detailed and informative, but that it provided little information on the budgetary requirements of the new system. He asked for confirmation that the total cost of the system would not exceed the approved level of $28 million at 1988 rates.

16. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) recalled that when the project had first been approved by a vote in the Fifth Committee, one third of the delegates present had not supported it. Paragraph 13 (b) of document A/C.5/45/20 suggested a substantial change in the original plan, paragraph 22 suggested that funds had previously been misapplied, paragraph 26 made vague references to improved service and financial

/...

(Mr. Kinchen, United Kingdom)

benefits, and paragraph 33 made the questionable assumption that the Organization's administrative demands would increase over time. He reiterated his delegation's reservations about supplementary appropriations for large-scale non-essential capital projects at a time when unpaid arrears to the regular budget amounted to 35.1 per cent of the total regular budget for the current year. He proposed that in taking note of the report, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should reiterate its request for a cost-benefit analysis.

17. Mr. FORAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services), replying to the representative of Sweden, said that because of the limited time which programme managers could devote to the design of the new system, they were being consulted through their administrative, executive, financial and personnel officers. Programme managers, department heads and the heads of offices away from Headquarters were kept informed of the system's progress and had opportunities to provide input. With regard to the control and audit of the system, a specialist had been recruited for the IMIS team to examine the audit aspects of the system, and the Director of the Internal Audit Division was a member of the Steering Committee for the project. On the subject of the timetable, he said that the project was six months behind schedule and that the internal design phase should begin in February or early March 1991. The delay had been caused by the deliberations which had preceded the decision to develop a new system rather than to adapt the FAO system, as well as by the need to consult with the heads of offices away from Headquarters, whose input was important in view of the proportion of expenditure (over 50 per cent) incurred for such offices. It was anticipated that the design stage would begin in the first quarter of 1991 and that module-by-module implementation would begin in mid-1992; all phases should be implemented by the end of 1993.

18. In reply to the representatives of Sweden, the United States and the United Kingdom, he confirmed that the project should be completed within the approved limit of $28 million. With regard to the comment of the representative of the Netherlands, he said that the development of the project had involved staff who would be working with the system at all levels, including clerical and support staff. Training in computer use had already been provided in many areas which were not yet computerized. He also took note of the request of the representative of the United Kingdom regarding a cost-benefit analysis of the system.

19. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the second progress report of the Secretary-General, contained in document A/C.5/45/20.

20. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium), proposed that the Committee should also recommend to the Assembly that it reiterate its request for a cost-benefit analysis.

21. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt his proposal, as orally amended.

22. *It was so decided*.

/...

Standards of accommodation for air travel (A/C.5/45/28)

23. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the General Assembly should be requested to take note of the report.

24. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that the report before the Committee was necessary so that the General Assembly could closely monitor the restrictions on first-class travel and maintain accountability. He requested the Secretariat to inform the Committee of any permanent exceptions to the decision set forth in paragraph 2 of resolution 42/214 which had not been reported in document A/C.5/45/28 and of any other United Nations travellers who were not bound by the restrictions in that resolution. While some progress had been made in reducing first-class travel, prudent management and more stringent conditions for the granting of exceptions could result in a further reduction of costs. His delegation recommended a review of the exception for medical conditions or advanced age. Moreover, while it recognized that eminent persons donated their time to the United Nations, it did not agree that the Organization was responsible for providing them with first-class accommodation. Between 1 July 1989 and 30 June 1990, almost $100,000 had been spent on travel exceptions authorized by the Secretary-General, 80 per cent of which had been spent for first-class travel. He wished to know how those figures compared with the figures for the two previous years. Exceptions to standard travel regulations were susceptible to abuse. His delegation took note in particular of travel by Concorde by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, at an additional cost of $2,278. To put things in perspective, that sum would be enough to pay for scores of meals at any refugee camp anywhere in the world. His delegation hoped that safeguards were in place to avoid the wasteful use of such privileges. Better planning on the part of the Secretariat and a co-operative attitude on the part of United Nations officials would avoid unnecessary travel expenditures in the future.

25. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that there were inconsistencies in the Organization's travel regulations. In 1965, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2128 (XX), under which United Nations representatives were required to travel in economy class. Members of expert bodies and senior members of the Secretariat were subsequently allowed to travel in business class when it was introduced by the airlines, but permanent representatives of Member States were still required to travel in economy class. He proposed that permanent representatives of Member States should be entitled to travel in business class to attend meetings of intergovernmental bodies, that other representatives of Member States should be subject to regulations similar to those applicable to Secretariat staff, and that the Secretariat should be given increased flexibility so that it could take advantage of new incentives and discounts being offered as a result of increased competition among airlines.

26. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) asked whether any figures were available on the number of applications for medical exceptions which had been declined by the Medical Director. Exceptions authorized because of the unavailability of standard accommodation reflected poor planning on the part of the travellers, since the events to which they travelled were normally programmed well in advance. In

/...

(Mr. Kinchen, United Kingdom)

addition, eminent persons should be willing to adjust their expectations to the Organization's rules and regulations. While he was not in a position to decide immediately to support the proposals of the representative of India, he agreed that there were inconsistencies in the current arrangement. He proposed that the Committee should review the situation at the next session on the basis of a document explaining the current regulations, possibly an updated version of the document issued at the forty-third session.

27. Mr. BAZAN (Chile) said that while his delegation did not question the Secretary-General's authority or the criteria followed in granting exceptions to travel regulations, it would like to have details on the exceptions granted for eminent persons, such as the names of the persons concerned and the events to which they had travelled.

28. Mr. KALBITZER (Germany) said that many of the exceptions authorized were contrary to the spirit of the relevant resolution. He deplored the continued disregard of the General Assembly's wishes in the matter.

29. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that he intended to submit his proposals on travel restrictions in writing at a subsequent meeting.

30. Ms. MILLS (Deputy Controller), replying to the representative of the United States, said that the only permanent exception to travel regulations was the one granted for advanced age. With regard to the figures for the previous two years, she noted that because two different régimes had been in effect only the figures for the preceding year could be compared to those for the current year. In 1988-1989, 58 exceptions had been granted for first-class travel and 17 for business-class travel, at an additional cost of $61,197. In the current reporting period, a total of 110 exceptions had been granted at an additional cost of $98,234. In reply to the representative of the United Kingdom, she said that she did not have figures on the number of medical exceptions which had been declined, but only on the total number of cases which had been declined. There had been 9 cases in which requests for exceptions had been denied, 4 in which the requests had been withdrawn and 10 in which requests had been approved but the privilege had not been exercised.

31. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) thanked the Deputy Controller for the information which she had provided. However, she had failed to indicate whether there were any travellers who were not bound by the regulations laid down in General Assembly resolution 42/214.

32. Ms. MILLS (Deputy Controller) said that the only individuals in that category were those who were designated by the Secretary-General as his official representatives.

33. Mr. ADEYEMI (Nigeria) asked whether the United Nations dealt only with particular airlines or with all airlines of Member States.

/...

34. Mr. FORAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services) said that the question was difficult to answer in the context of deregulation of the airline industry. At the outset, the United Nations had dealt only with airlines belonging to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Subsequently, the standard had been broadened to include airlines not members of the Association which followed IATA safety standards. The current practice was to choose only airlines which followed acceptable safety standards. There were some carriers which staff members were discouraged from using, but none of them were national airlines.

35. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take a decision on the matter at its next meeting.

Construction of additional conference facilities at Addis Ababa and Bangkok (A/C.5/45/53)

36. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General had reported that the construction project in Bangkok was being carried out and would be completed within the timetable given in document A/C.5/45/53. He also noted that the Secretary-General had given no indication that there would be a need to revise the requirements for the Bangkok project.

37. With regard to the construction project in Addis Ababa, the Advisory Committee had exchanged views with the representative of the Secretary-General, who had indicated that the contract for the project would be signed in December 1990 or at the latest in January 1991. A slight reduction in the cost of the project had been projected, but that had to be considered in the light of the exchange rate used to convert the European Currency Unit to dollars.

38. In 1989 the Advisory Committee had recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the Secretary-General's revised estimate of the total cost of the project in Addis Ababa and request the Secretary-General to proceed as necessary with approval of the project in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/213, section I, paragraph 1 (a), and 42/211, paragraph 10 (a). The Advisory Committee's current position was similar to that of the previous year. He noted that in paragraph 13 of document A/C.5/45/53, the Secretary-General had not quoted the full text of the relevant General Assembly resolution; a partial quotation could be misleading.

39. The CHAIRMAN said that if heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the report of the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/53 and authorize the Secretary-General to proceed with the projects in accordance with the revised timetables.

40. It was so decided.

41. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom), explaining his delegation's position on the decision just adopted, said that he had been prepared to support the resumption of work on the construction projects in the context of the process of reform and

/...

renewal in the United Nations which had been initiated by the adoption of General Assembly resolution 41/213. So long as that process remained meaningful and efforts continued to implement it in a manner which respected the essential balance of interests involved, he did not anticipate having to take a separate position in the matter.

42. Mr. YOHANNES (Ethiopia) said that his delegation welcomed the decision just adopted. The adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution on the question should enable the Secretariat to take the necessary steps with regard to the next phase of the project, which would greatly facilitate the activities of one third of the Member States.

Functioning of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Economic Commission for Africa (A/C.5/45/57)

43. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, as stated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/45/57) on the functioning of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs), an overall assessment of the activities of the MULPOCs had led to the conclusion that the objectives for which they had been established were still valid. It was therefore intended to maintain them as they were currently structured.

44. He noted that the staff resources of the MULPOCs for the biennium 1990-1991 totalled 63 posts, financed from both the regular budget and extrabudgetary sources. It was estimated that an additional 18 posts would be needed in the next biennium.

45. The Advisory Committee intended to review the Secretary-General's proposal for additional posts for the MULPOCs in the context of its review of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993. In that connection, the Committee requested a report which clearly indicated the specific programme of work of the MULPOCs and its relationship to the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The report should also provide a breakdown of the various funding sources for all the posts, indicating whether each of the posts was funded from regular or from extrabudgetary sources.

46. Furthermore, a clear indication should be provided on the proper status of the MULPOCs. If they were an integral part of the ECA secretariat, it would seem appropriate that they should report to the ECA Conference of Ministers through the Executive Secretary of ECA rather than, as stated in paragraph 21 of the report, to the ECA Conference of Ministers through the committees of intergovernmental experts. The rationale for that arrangement should be explained in the report of the Secretary-General.

47. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take

(The Chairman)

note of the report of the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/57 and endorse the Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations.

48. It was so decided.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/C.5/45/65)

49. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) drew attention to paragraph 1 of document A/C.5/45/65, which stated that the General Assembly, by decision 44/466, had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding $6,392,500 for non-conference servicing costs in 1990-1991 in respect of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Assembly, in the same decision, had also requested the Secretary-General to review the resources required and to report the results to the General Assembly towards the close of the forty-fifth session. The Assembly had further decided that such appropriations as might be necessary should have first claim on the contingency fund.

50. Based on the experience gained thus far and the programme of work mandated by the Preparatory Committee, the level of resources required for the preparatory work for the Conference for 1990-1991 was estimated at $6,374,700. A breakdown of those resources compared with the amount of $6,392,500 referred to in General Assembly decision 44/466 was provided in table 1. As shown in that table, a net reduction of $17,800 in the estimates included a decrease in resources for temporary posts. The reduction amounted to $582,500, which had been largely offset by increases for other items of expenditure. The overall estimate for temporary posts was based on expenditures incurred to date, taking into account the revised distribution of posts at Geneva, New York and Nairobi and the Secretary-General's proposal to add four General Service staff members at Geneva. In that connection, he drew attention to paragraph 16, which stated that because the secretariat for the Conference was located away from the United Nations Office at Geneva it was unable to utilize services that would otherwise have been available.

51. He noted that the Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Voluntary Fund for Supporting Developing Countries Participating in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its Preparatory Process had been established. With regard to the Voluntary Fund, he drew attention to paragraph 37, which stated that the Preparatory Committee had decided to recommend to the Assembly that, on an exceptional basis, payment should be made from the Voluntary Fund for daily subsistence allowance for representatives of the least developed countries. Accordingly, the Secretary-General was requesting a decision on the matter by the General Assembly.

52. As discussed in paragraph 36, the Trust Fund was expected to fund a number of support activities for the Conference. In response to inquiries, the Advisory Committee had been informed that those activities formed part of the overall programme of work established by the Preparatory Committee at its first session. The Advisory Committee had also learned that the total resources necessary for

(Mr. Mselle)

implementing those extrabudgetary activities were estimated at $15.1 million, and that approximately $3 million had been received thus far. In his opinion, such information should have been included in the Secretary-General's report. The mere mention of activities to be funded from extrabudgetary contributions without an indication of the resources required was misleading, particularly as the estimate of extrabudgetary requirements far exceeded the regular budget contribution. He requested that in the future, the reports of the Secretary-General should clearly indicate how all resources, including extrabudgetary resources, had been programmed.

53. Drawing attention to paragraph 35, he noted that the additional appropriations totalling $6,374,700 which had been requested by the Secretary-General would be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines for the operation and use of the contingency fund. Accordingly, the additional appropriations would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly at the end of the current session in accordance with resolution 42/211, annex, section C.

54. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America), drawing attention to paragraph 9 of document A/C.5/45/65 which mentioned the addition of four General Service posts, said that what appeared to be involved was the United Nations practice of providing mid-level Professionals with personal secretaries. Such a practice was unjustified in that it did not reflect the increase in productivity achieved through the use of modern office technology and perpetuated the idea that a private secretary was an acquired right.

55. The increase in staffing was all the more troubling in the light of the budget performance for the Conference secretariat. He did not understand how it was possible to add staff to that unit while at the same time projecting a $600,000 reduction in budgeted expenditures. Given the substantial decline in the value of the dollar against the Swiss franc, he would have expected an increase in staff costs, not a decrease, and would appreciate receiving detailed explanations on that issue.

56. The explanations provided in paragraph 27 for the fourfold increase in travel expenditures were rather unconvincing. He wondered why the need for meetings had not been foreseen when the original travel estimate had been prepared. He also wished to know how many staff members would be allowed to go on what he would describe as "junkets", how many excursions were planned and which countries would be visited. He questioned whether it was really necessary to conduct such a public relations campaign, which implied that the need and utility of an international conference might not be accepted by specialized institutions and interested organizations.

57. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) said that he did not share the attitude of the United States representative concerning efforts to publicize the Conference. With regard to staffing, he wondered what had happened to the assurances which delegations had received at the resumed session. With the balance heavily weighted in favour of

/...

(Mr. Irumba, Uganda)

Geneva and with only a thin layer of staffing in New York and at Nairobi, he hoped that the Conference would not be overly oriented towards climatic issues rather than environment and development.

58. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said, in response to the comments by the representative of the United States, that the reduced staff costs were attributable to delays in recruitment and, to recosting of the original estimates of expenditure. With regard to travel costs, he said that the senior staff of the Conference secretariat were required to travel extensively, but that the matter would be kept under review.

59. In response to the question by the representative of Uganda, he said that under the revised distribution of staff a new post at the D-2 level had been included in New York but that the Secretary-General of the Conference had decided that sufficient staff had been assigned for Nairobi, although that decision could be revised in the course of preparations for the Conference.

60. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said, by way of clarification, that the report under consideration did not require the General Assembly to approve any additional appropriations at the current stage. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should be informed that requirements for the Conference would amount to $6,374,700 for 1991 and that the actual amount of any appropriation that might be required would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement.

61. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to inform the General Assembly that requirements for the Conference on Environment and Development would amount to $6,374,700 under the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, as broken down in paragraph 35 of document A/C.5/45/65, and $1,110,900 under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). The actual additional appropriations in that respect would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted later in the session. He would also take it that the Committee wished to recommend that, on an exceptional basis, payment should be made from the Voluntary Fund for daily subsistance allowance for representatives of the least developed countries.

62. It was so decided.

63. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) said that it would make for better programming if, in future reports, the Secretariat took into account the comments made by the Advisory Committee on the presentation of information on extrabudgetary resources. His delegation was not satisfied with the Secretariat's explanation of the staffing situation of the Conference secretariat. He recommended that the matter should be kept under constant review.

/...

64. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) drew attention to the provisions of paragraph 9 of section II of General Assembly resolution 44/228, calling upon the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other agencies to contribute fully to the preparations for the Conference on the basis of guidelines and requirements to be established by the Preparatory Committee. He hoped that UNEP and the other relevant bodies were preparing the necessary studies and stressed that such studies should be properly co-ordinated and consistent with the Preparatory Committee's guidelines. It was also important for the Secretary-General to ensure the full co-ordination of topics selected by UNEP for the Conference and other organizations and optimum utilization of the resources available to the United Nations system.

Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments

Developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights (A/45/807; A/C.5/45/66)

65. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General's report in document A/45/807 had been submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/47. He drew attention to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report, which referred to the analysis commissioned by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the unforeseen and rapid growth in the Centre's responsibilities in 1990 and noted that, since the Secretary-General was not in a position to propose redeployment of resources from other sections of the programme budget, Member States had been invited to consider providing voluntary contributions to the Centre.

66. Turning to draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.72/Rev.1 on the Centre for Human Rights, he drew attention to paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report in document A/C.5/45/66, which recorded the adoption of the draft resolution, as orally revised, by the Third Committee. Although the resolution had not yet been adopted by the plenary Assembly, the Secretary-General had already submitted the requested additional proposals, in order that the deadline set by the Third Committee could be met. The proposals, which were set out and explained in document A/C.5/45/66, had not yet been considered by the Third Committee from the programmatic point of view.

67. The Advisory Committee noted that the procedure followed in submitting the proposals was irregular, but, since the Convention on the Rights of the Child had entered into force much earlier than anticipated, it recommended that the three additional posts described in paragraph 8 of A/C.5/45/66, relating to the implementation of supervisory procedures for the Convention, should be approved. The Advisory Committee did not recommend approval of the four posts requested in paragraph 9, however, and maintained that any request for additional posts should be made in the context of the Secretary-General's proposals for 1992-1993, and in the light of the management and work-load analysis which was currently under way.

/...

(Mr. Mselle)

68. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, if it adopted draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.72/Rev.1, as orally revised, additional expenditure of $120,300 for three additional posts related to the Convention on the Rights of the Child would arise under section 23 of the programme budget for 1990-1991, and that the additional expenditure should be dealt with in accordance with guidelines for the operation of the contingency fund. Accordingly, any actual additional appropriations that might be required would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted later in the session.

69. Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy), speaking on behalf of the twelve States members of the European Community, welcomed the programmatic justification provided by the Secretary-General for his proposals in document A/C.5/45/66 and supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation on the establishment of additional posts relating to the Convention of the Rights of the Child. He was puzzled, however, by its rejection of the accompanying proposal in respect of the Centre's other activities, particularly in view of the statistical data provided in document E/1990/50, detailing the growing volume of correspondence processed at the Centre.

70. The Twelve looked forward to the forthcoming management and work-load analysis and believed that it would provide a sound basis for the further strengthening of the Centre in 1992 which would not necessarily entail an increase in the current level of funding under the regular budget. Those issues would have to be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993. With regard to the revised estimates for 1991, however, the Twelve believed that if the Committee could not agree to approve the Secretary-General's proposals the issue should be the subject of further consultations.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
45th meeting
held on
Thursday, 13th December 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (*continued*)

Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments (*continued*)

Developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights (*continued*)

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials

OTHER MATTERS

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/45/SR.45
18 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

/...

The meeting was called to order at 11.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments (continued) (A/45/807)

Developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights (continued) (A/C.5/45/66)

1. Mr. THORNBERRY (Director, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said, by way of clarification of the Secretary-General's proposal for the creation of additional posts in the Centre for Human Rights, as set out in documents A/C.5/45/66 and A/45/807, that the greater interest shown by Governments in human rights had resulted in increased demands on the Centre. The Centre's work had become more operational and its resources were therefore in urgent need of further strengthening.

2. In response to concerns expressed in the Economic and Social Council and the Third Committee regarding the Centre's ability to deliver the programme outputs for which it was responsible, the Secretary-General had initiated a number of studies on the Centre to ensure that, in accordance with the medium-term plan for 1992-1997, it would be fully equipped to meet the major challenges facing it. The proposals before the Committee were intended as interim measures for 1991, pending submission of the Secretary-General's budget proposals for the next biennium, and responded to the draft resolution adopted by the Third Committee (A/C.3/45/L.72/Rev.1).

3. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) said that her delegation fully supported the statement made on behalf of the twelve States members of the European Community at the previous meeting and stressed that draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.72/Rev.1, which it had sponsored, was a proper response to the concern expressed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/47. With reference to the proposed additional posts described in paragraphs 8 and 9 of document A/C.5/45/66, she emphasized the need for urgent action to alleviate the Centre's current problems. The proposal had been made in response to the view expressed by the Secretary-General in his report on logistical and human resources support for the activities of the Centre in document E/1990/50, to the effect that interim solutions should be found to the Centre's problems.

4. The Convention on the Rights of the Child should be dealt with separately since the implementation of supervisory procedures for the Convention required a permanent solution. Moreover, regular budget funding had been required for the additional work-load created by the early entry into force of the Convention. For that reason, her delegation fully supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations on that matter.

/...

(Ms. Rotheiser, Austria)

5. With reference to paragraph 9 of document A/C.5/45/66, her delegation would like representatives of the Budget Division and the Centre for Human Rights to clarify why, in view of the evidence in document E/1990/50 that additional resources were required in a number of important areas of the Centre's work, the proposed four additional posts were to be allocated for the procedure established under General Assembly resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and not made available to the Centre for general purposes. Her delegation also suggested, therefore, that the Secretary-General might propose additional new posts to be placed at the Centre's own disposal, to meet its minimum requirements. She believed that the Committee should review the proposals contained in paragraph 9 of document A/C.5/45/66 in the light of the views expressed by the representatives of the Secretariat and the Centre for Human Rights.

6. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda), referring to the report of the Fifth Committee in document A/45/843, said that it was regrettable that a paragraph reaffirming the Fifth Committee's competence to deal with administrative and budgetary matters had been omitted.

7. His delegation was prepared to consider the Advisory Committee's proposal regarding the strengthening of the Centre but stressed that any further requests should be considered in the context of the budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Uganda endorsed the suggestion by Italy that the matter should be referred for informal consultations. Finally, he drew attention to the understanding in the Committee that, in accordance with traditional practice, the consolidated statement should only be considered after all statements of programme budget implications had been dealt with by the Committee.

8. Mr. MOSNESSET (Norway) said that, in his delegation's view, there was good justification for the proposed seven additional posts, particularly in view of the Centre's increased work-load, on the one hand, depleted resources, on the other. He agreed that further consultations were needed unless the Committee could agree to the Secretary-General's proposed interim solution.

9. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) said that it was important to confine consideration to financial and administrative issues. It was unfortunate, therefore, that the Committee was being forced to consider the substantive aspects of Third Committee items.

10. His delegation was unable to accept the proposals made in document A/C.5/45/66. The proposals to create additional posts and the call for voluntary contributions to the Centre in document A/45/807 furnished yet another illustration of the inequitable treatment accorded to different groups of Member States and contrasted with the dilatory manner in which, in the past, the Secretariat had handled matters concerning the African States, which accounted for one third of the membership of the United Nations.

/...

(Mr. Monthe, Cameroon)

11. He noted that no decision had been taken in the plenary Assembly or by the Third Committee on the proposals and hoped that the Advisory Committee had noted the procedural irregularities. Those irregularities notwithstanding, he agreed that the matter could be referred for informal consultations if those delegations interested in the documents in question so desired.

12. Mr. KARBUCZKY (Hungary) noted the discrepancy between the increased work-load of the Centre for Human Rights and its diminished resources, which, in the view of of his delegation, fully justified the granting of the modest additional resources requested for the Centre in 1991 as a short-term measure without prejudice to the search for a more comprehensive long-term solution. His delegation believed that the remedy offered in document A/45/807 was far from adequate and he therefore recommended that the additional posts should not be earmarked for any specific activities. If it was necessary, for administrative purposes, to specify the functions of the posts, those functions could be described as activities related to the functioning of treaty-monitoring bodies and other activities mandated by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council in the field of human rights. Hungary supported the request by Austria and by Italy, on behalf of the twelve States members of the European Community, for further clarification of the issue, possibly by the representative of the Centre.

13. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that there had been similar occasions in the past, when the Committee had been unable to accept the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. He noted that, as no agreement could be reached on the basis of technical considerations, the Committee's decision would have to be a political one. The decision to accept the programme of activity had already been taken; all that remained was the question of resources, which should be approached in the spirit of compromise. Ghana therefore supported the suggestion by Italy that the matter should be referred for informal consultations and proposed, furthermore, that other issues relating to the proposed new posts should also be included in those consultations.

14. Ms. SJOLANDER (Sweden) said that the evidence provided by the Secretary-General in document A/45/807 clearly demonstrated the urgent need to reinforce the staffing of the Centre for Human Rights. The Centre was in a critical situation and the depletion of its resources threatened to bring its activities to a standstill. *Ad hoc* remedies, such as the appeal for voluntary contributions, did not offer an adequate solution and Sweden therefore supported the proposal to create seven additional posts in 1991.

15. Mrs. DIAMATARIS (Cyprus) said that her delegation agreed fully with the views expressed by Austria and Italy and supported the proposal in document A/C.5/45/66 to create three additional posts related to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and four additional posts under the resolution 1503 (XLVIII) procedure. Cyprus also agreed with Austria that it would be useful to hear the Centre's own views on the matter.

/...

16. Ms. VUORINEN (Finland) said that, in view of the increased work-load of the Centre for Human Rights, Finland fully supported the creation of all seven additional posts as an interim measure and agreed with the suggestions made by Austria and Sweden.

17. Mr. SIGURDSSON (Iceland) said that his delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.72/Rev.1 and viewed the promotion and protection of human rights as central to the activities of the United Nations. As a result of the improved international political climate, the activities and work-load of the Centre for Human Rights had increased considerably. Moreover, the linkages between all human rights and the relationship between human rights, peace and development must be borne in mind. It was also necessary to bear in mind that all human rights activities within the framework of the United Nations were reflected in the Centre's work. The report of the Secretary-General on the situation and developments regarding the logistical and human resources support for the activities of the Centre for Human Rights in the field of human rights (E/1990/50) concluded that the Centre's work-load had increased and that resources had failed to keep pace with the growth of the Centre's responsibilities. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.72/Rev.1, which the Third Committee had adopted by consensus, had been intended to address the issue of the overall increase in the Centre's work-load. That increase affected all areas of the Centre's work. It was therefore unfortunate that the proposed four additional posts were earmarked for the procedure established under General Assembly resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and were not to be made available to the Centre for its overall purposes (A/C.5/45/66, para. 9). Iceland therefore supported the Austrian proposal that it should be ascertained whether the Secretary-General could propose a number of posts that could be put at the Centre's own disposal for general purposes. Iceland also supported the Austrian suggestion that the Advisory Committee should reconsider its decision.

18. Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba), referring to the issue of the competence of the various Main Committees, said that it must be stressed that the Fifth Committee had before it a technical matter and must therefore not dwell on political issues. His delegation endorsed the views expressed by previous speakers, particularly the representative of Cameroon, who had eloquently demonstrated why the programme budget implications, as outlined by the Secretary-General, were unacceptable at the current stage. Informal consultations should be held in that connection.

19. Ms. CRAIG (New Zealand) said that her delegation also endorsed the views expressed by previous speakers. New Zealand would normally be reluctant to take a position contrary to that adopted by the Advisory Committee. However, in the specific instance under consideration New Zealand believed that the deployment of seven additional staff members at the Centre as an interim measure was justified.

20. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation strongly supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the Centre for Human Rights. Any perceived shortfall in staffing could be dealt with upon completion of the work-load study. Assuming that the study was completed fairly soon, proposals could be included in the budget for 1992-1993. The United States also thought that a better distribution of resources currently available to the Centre might solve

(Mr. Michalski, United States)

problems thought to exist in other parts of the Centre. It would like to know, moreover, whether the non-payment or late payment by States parties of assessments for treaty bodies was a cause of the Centre's resource constraints. It would be interested to know to what extent the regular budget subsidized the activities in question, and would appreciate information in respect of each treaty body regarding unpaid contributions. Such information should be made available to the Committee before it took any decision on the matter under consideration.

21. If there were a shred of evidence that the additional posts proposed by the Secretary-General would make any appreciable difference in promoting respect for human rights in 1991, the United States would be inclined to support the Secretary-General's proposal. It must be stressed that what the Committee had before it was strictly a matter of proper administrative and budgetary procedures.

22. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was, of course, fully associated with the statement made by Italy at the previous meeting on behalf of the twelve States members of the European Community. It also supported the statements made at the current meeting by the representatives of Cameroon, Cuba and Ghana, and with some of the views expressed by the United States. Where procedural issues were concerned, his delegation opposed, in part, the positions taken by Austria, Cyprus and Iceland. It was established procedure in the Committee that the Secretariat spoke with one voice and that that voice was the relevant Secretariat unit. The United Kingdom had been concerned over the years that a fair balance representing a collective view of the Secretariat should be available to the Committee. The establishment of the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board had been part of the arrangements in question. It was time for the Fifth Committee, a technical committee, to act technically, while also taking into account what Cameroon, in a statement at the forty-second session of the General Assembly, had referred to as "the needs of all Member States".

23. Mr. Y. K. GUPTA (India) wondered why it had not been apparent at an earlier stage what the Centre's work-load was. Clearly, there was a justification for three of the additional posts in question, owing to the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, he did not altogether understand why informal consultations were required, at such a late stage in the current session of the General Assembly, on the other four posts concerned. It would be preferable for the Committee to defer consideration of the matter to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, when the work-load study would be available. That notwithstanding, he did not oppose informal consultations.

24. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that the procedure followed by the Third Committee and the Secretary-General in making the requests for the posts in question was quite irregular. He wished to refer in that connection to paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.72/Rev.1. Normally, substantive proposals submitted by the Secretary-General should first be considered by a competent body dealing with programmes. In the absence of consideration of programmatic aspects of the proposals submitted by the Secretary-General, the Fifth Committee was not entirely in a position to consider the proposals. The best approach would be to find a

(Mr. Inomata, Japan)

technical solution in the Fifth Committee. The Committee should therefore accept the Advisory Committee's relevant recommendations. Japan strongly opposed the convening of informal consultations on the matter before the Committee.

25. Ms. BEAULIEU (Canada) said that her delegation was in favour of approval of the additional posts for the Centre.

26. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should defer further consideration of the issue before it until it was in a position to take a decision.

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials (A/45/7/Add.13; A/C.5/45/21; A/C.5/45/L.6)

27. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.6, which was based on the report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee (A/C.5/45/21) and the report of the Advisory Committee on the same subject (A/45/7/Add.13). He wished, in particular, to draw attention to paragraph 50 of the Secretary-General's report, which indicated that, should the General Assembly approve the recommendations contained in the report, additional requirements totalling $88,125 would arise in 1991 ($30,375 under section 1 and $57,750 under section 28H1 of the programme budget). Should the General Assembly approve paragraphs 1 and 2 of draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.6, the figures in the Secretary-General's report would need to be adjusted upwards by a total of $16,150, to reflect the recent election of a new Chairman of ICSC, to whom an installation grant would be payable at an estimated cost of $8,250. Thus, in summary, should the General Assembly approve draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.6, the additional requirements for 1991 would be $33,575 under section 1 and $70,700 under section 28H, for a total of $104,275. As indicated in paragraph 52 of the Secretary-General's report, it was the Secretary-General's view that, should the Assembly approve the provisions contained in draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.6, the additional requirements would be clearly related to inflation and should thus be treated outside the procedure related to the contingency fund.

28. Mr. HAMIDA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) suggested that the Committee should defer consideration of the matter before it to a later meeting.

29. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation was also in favour of deferring consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.6. At the same time, he wished to stress that his delegation had no difficulties with the proposals set out in the draft.

30. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in the light of the two previous statements, the Committee should defer consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.6 to a later meeting.

/...

OTHER MATTERS

31. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, notwithstanding specific instructions by the Secretary-General forbidding individual staff members of the Secretariat to lobby in the Main Committees of the General Assembly, the USSR had, in 1990, witnessed and been subjected to intense lobbying from staff members. His delegation therefore requested the Chairman to take steps to ensure that the Secretary-General's instructions were effectively enforced and that disciplinary action was taken against the offenders.

32. The CHAIRMAN said that he took note of the comments by the USSR and would see that appropriate action was taken.

33. Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba), referring to the statement made by the representative of the Soviet Union, said that he was pleased that the Secretariat would take appropriate action in that connection.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.